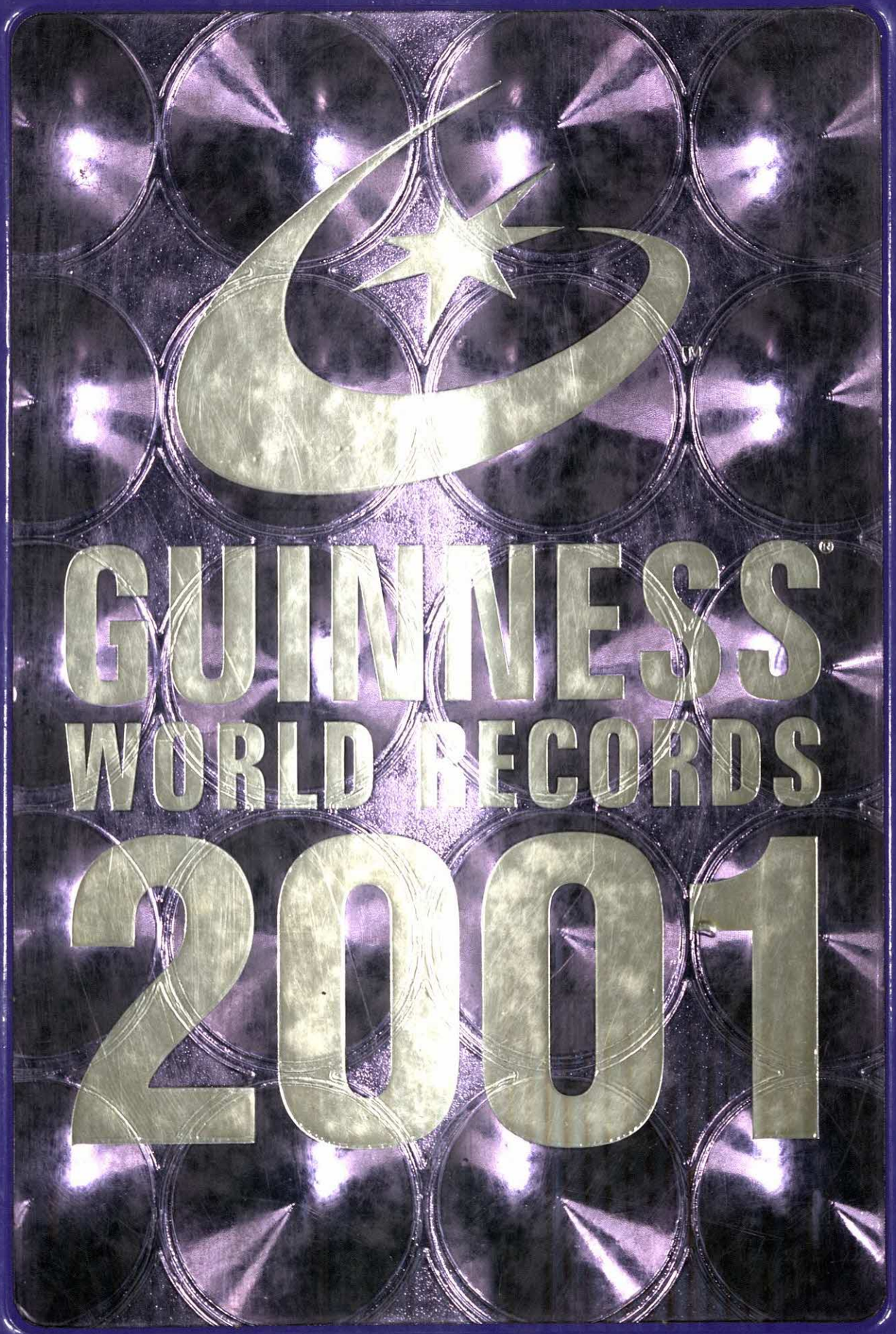

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ABBREVIATIONS & MEASUREMENTS

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS uses both metric and imperial measurements (imperial in brackets). The only exception to this rule is for some scientific data, where metric measurements only are universally accepted, and for some sports data.

All currency values are shown in dollars with the sterling equivalent in brackets except when transactions took place in the United Kingdom, when this is reversed. Where a specific date is given the exchange rate is calculated according to the currency values that were in operation at the time. Where only a year date is given the exchange rate is calculated from December of that year. The billion conversion is one thousand million.

'GDR' (the German Democratic Republic) refers to the East German state which unified with West Germany in 1990. The abbreviation is used for sporting records broken before 1990.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics split into a number of parts in 1991, the largest of these being Russia. The Commonwealth of Independent States replaced it and the abbreviation 'CIS' is used mainly for sporting records broken at the 1992 Olympic Games.

ACCREDITATION

Guinness World Records Ltd has a very thorough accreditation system for records verification. However, whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, Guinness World Records Ltd cannot be held responsible for any errors contained in this work. Feedback from our readers on any points of accuracy is always welcomed.

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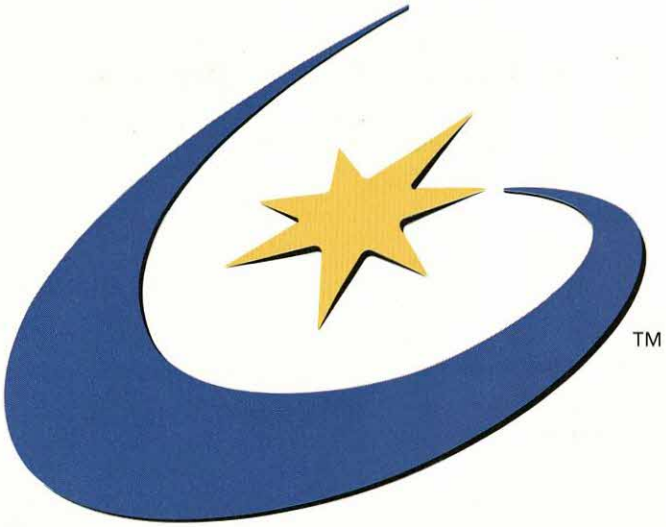
Attempting to break records or set new records can be dangerous. Appropriate advice should be taken first and all record attempts are undertaken entirely at the participant's risk. In no circumstances will Guinness World Records Ltd have any liability for death or injury suffered in any record attempts. Guinness World Records Ltd has complete discretion over whether or not to include any particular records in the book.



GUINNESS® WORLD RECORDS 2001

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Introduction

Welcome to ***Guinness World Records 2001,*** a completely new edition of the world's best-selling copyright book, including the first records of the new millennium.

It's been another astonishing year for record-breaking. **Khalid Khannouchi** became the first man to run a marathon in under 2 hours 6 minutes (see page 209). Can it be long before someone runs the race in less than two hours? **The PlayStation 2** became the fastest-selling games console in history (page 120). **Sherpa Babu Chhiri** reached the summit of Everest in under 17 hours (page 32). A team of Chinese and Japanese students toppled **2,751,518 dominoes**, breaking the previous record by over 280,000 (page 76). The unlikeliest celebrities were honoured, as **Harry Potter, Pikachu** and even the inhabitants of **South Park** found themselves Guinness World Record holders for the first time.

And Guinness World Records is going from strength to strength in all areas. Apart from the success of our TV show – a total audience of over 100 million people in 35 countries – we also have a mindboggling new website. See page 256 for the full story, or you can check it out at **www.guinnessworldrecords.com** right now.

We're sure that ***Guinness World Records 2001*** offers plenty to fascinate, stimulate, amaze, amuse, revolt and inspire you. And if you think you've got what it takes to join the select ranks of the record-breakers, go to the website or take a look at page 252. Who knows? You too might be a Guinness World Record holder one day...

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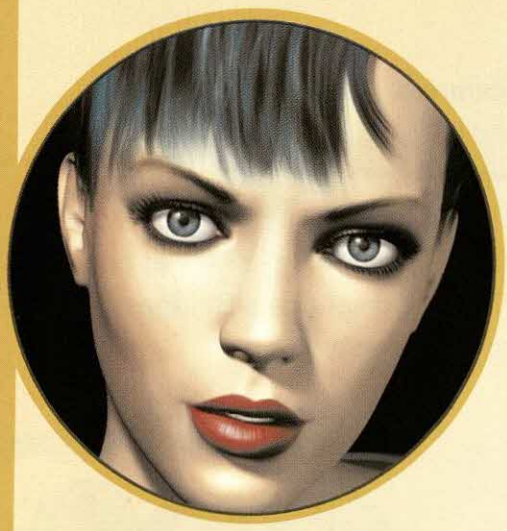

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KEY

Achievement	Media	Space
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Discovery	Nature	Sports
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Early Starters

YOUNGEST OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLISTS
The youngest ever winner of an Olympic gold medal was a French boy – whose name was possibly Marcel Depaillé – who coxed the Netherlands pair in Paris, France, in 1900. He was not more than 10 years old and may have been as young as seven when he took part as a substitute for the original cox.

The youngest female champion was Kim Yoon-mi of South Korea, who competed in the 1994 women's 3,000-m short-track speed-skating relay event at the age of 13 years 85 days.

The youngest winner of an individual Olympic event was Marjorie Gestring (USA), who took the springboard diving title at the age of 13 years 268 days at the Games in Berlin, Germany, on 12 Aug 1936.

YOUNGEST PHYSICIAN
Balamurali Ambati of Hollis Hills, New York, USA, became the world's youngest doctor on 19 May 1995, when he graduated from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, USA, aged 17.

YOUNGEST GRADUATES
Michael Kearney started studying for an Associate of Science degree at Santa Rosa Junior College, California, USA, in Sept 1990, when he was just 6 years 7 months old. He became the world's youngest graduate in June 1994, when he obtained a BA in anthropology from the University of South Alabama, USA, at the age of 10 years 4 months.

⊙ YOUNGEST SUPERMARKET CONSULTANT
On 15 April 2000 supermarket chain Tesco announced that it had hired seven-year-old Laurie Sleator from Herts, UK, to advise senior executives on the Pokémon craze currently sweeping the globe. Laurie receives Pokémon products in return for his services.

⊙ YOUNGEST DJ
Llewellyn Owen from King's Cross, London, UK, also known as DJ Welly, headlined at the London club The Warp on 1 May 2000, when he was 8 years 70 days old. He was paid £125 ($180) per hour, the standard rate for headlining DJs. As of June 2000, he was scheduled to play a number of venues in both the UK and Paris, France.

Tathagat Avatar Tulsi of New Delhi, India, obtained an MSc in physics from Patna University, India, at the age of 12 years 2 months on 28 Nov 1999.

YOUNGEST JUDGE
John Payton was 18 years 11 months old when he took office as a Justice of the Peace in Plano, Texas, USA, in Jan 1991.

YOUNGEST PERSON TO PUBLISH RESEARCH
The youngest person to have had serious research published in a scientific or medical journal is Emily Rosa of Colorado, USA. She was 11 years old when an article she co-authored appeared in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* on 1 April 1998. The article reported an experiment that she had conceived at the age of eight and carried out for a school project aged nine.

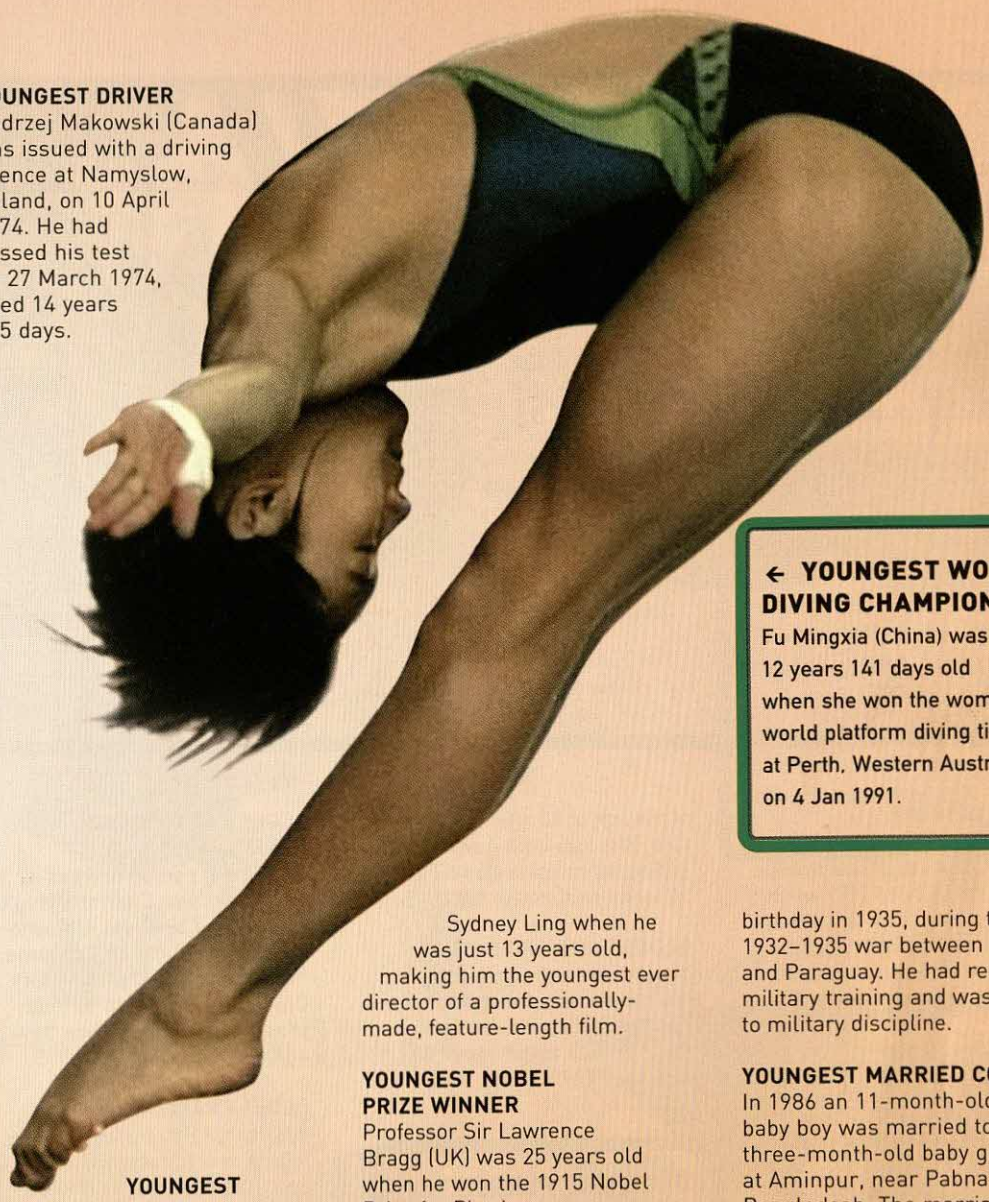
YOUNGEST UN AMBASSADOR
Laura Sweeting from Watford, Herts, UK, became the UN's youngest Goodwill Ambassador on 9 June 2000, aged 16. Her role is to help raise awareness and funds for the Water4Life Appeal/Children Helping Children campaign.

YOUNGEST HAUTE COUTURE DESIGNER
French fashion designer Yves Saint-Laurent (b 1936) became Christian Dior's assistant at the age of 17 and was named head of the House of Dior in 1957. In 1962 he opened his own fashion house and in the 1970s expanded into ready-to-wear lines, household linens and fragrances.

YOUNGEST OPERA SINGER
US opera singer Ginetta La Bianca was 15 years 316 days old when she sang the role of Gilda in Verdi's *Rigoletto* in Velletri, Italy, on 24 March 1950. She appeared as Rosina in *The Barber of Seville* at the Teatro dell'Opera, Rome, Italy, 45 days later.

⊙ YOUNGEST HOLE-IN-ONE GOLFER
The youngest golfer to have achieved a hole-in-one is Matthew Draper (UK). He was 5 years 212 days old when he set this record at the 112-m (122-yd) fourth at Cherwell Edge Golf Club, Oxon, UK, on 17 June 1997.

YOUNGEST DRIVER
Andrzej Makowski (Canada) was issued with a driving licence at Namyslow, Poland, on 10 April 1974. He had passed his test on 27 March 1974, aged 14 years 235 days.



← YOUNGEST WORLD DIVING CHAMPION
Fu Mingxia (China) was 12 years 141 days old when she won the women's world platform diving title at Perth, Western Australia, on 4 Jan 1991.

YOUNGEST AUTHOR
Dennis Vollmer of Grove, Oklahoma, USA, was six years old when he wrote and illustrated the book *Joshua Disobeys*. It was published by Landmark Editions, Inc of Kansas City, Missouri, USA, after Dennis won a national contest for school students in 1987.

YOUNGEST MOVIE DIRECTOR, WRITER AND PRODUCER
The 1973 thriller *Lex the Wonderdog* was written, produced, and directed by Sydney Ling when he was just 13 years old, making him the youngest ever director of a professionally-made, feature-length film.

YOUNGEST NOBEL PRIZE WINNER
Professor Sir Lawrence Bragg (UK) was 25 years old when he won the 1915 Nobel Prize for Physics.

YOUNGEST SOLDIERS
The Brazilian military hero and statesman Luís Alves de Lima e Silva, Marshal Duke of Caxias, entered his infantry regiment at the age of five in 1808. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1824 and made Duke in 1869.

Fernando Inchauste Montalvo, the son of a major in the Bolivian air force, went to the front with his father on his fifth birthday in 1935, during the 1932–1935 war between Bolivia and Paraguay. He had received military training and was subject to military discipline.

YOUNGEST MARRIED COUPLE
In 1986 an 11-month-old baby boy was married to a three-month-old baby girl at Aminpur, near Pabna, Bangladesh. The marriage took place in order to end a 20-year feud between the children's families over a farm.

YOUNGEST PROFESSOR
Colin Maclaurin was 19 years old when he was elected Professor of Mathematics at Marischal College, Aberdeen, UK, on 30 Sept 1717. He went on to become Professor of Mathematics at Edinburgh University, UK, in 1725, on the recommendation of Sir Isaac Newton.

Golden Oldies

⊙ OLDEST FEMALE MARATHON FINISHER

Jenny Wood-Allen from Dundee, UK, was 87 years old when she completed the 1999 London Marathon with a time of 7 hr 14 min 46 sec. She has now completed more than 73 marathons, raising well over £30,000 ($44,600) for charity in the process. The oldest male marathon finisher was Dimitrion Yordanidis of Greece, who set the record aged 98 on 10 Oct 1976 in Athens, Greece. His time was 7 hr 33 mins.

OLDEST DRIVERS
Layne Hall of Silver Creek, New York, USA, was issued with a licence on 15 June 1989 when, according to the licence, he was 109 years old. He died on 20 Nov 1990, but according to his death certificate he was then only 105.

Maude Tull of Inglewood, California, USA, began driving at the age of 91 after her husband died. She was issued with a replacement licence on 5 Feb 1976, when she was 104.

OLDEST QUALIFIED PILOT
The world's oldest pilot is Burnet Patten of Victoria, Australia. He obtained his flying licence at the age of 80 on 2 May 1997.

⊙ OLDEST PERSON TO SKI TO THE NORTH POLE

In April 1999 Jack MacKenzie (Canada), then aged 77, joined a ski expedition to the North Pole as part of celebrations to mark the International Year of Older Persons. He and the other eight members of his team skied 100 km (62 miles) in five and a half days, reaching the pole on 28 April 1999.

OLDEST AEROPLANE PASSENGER
The oldest person to fly as a passenger was Charlotte Hughes of Redcar, Cleveland, UK, who was given a flight on Concorde from London, UK, to New York City, USA, as a 110th birthday present in Aug 1987. She flew again in Feb 1992, aged 115.

OLDEST PARACHUTISTS
Hildegarde Ferrera became the oldest ever parachutist when she made a tandem jump over Mokuleia, Hawaii, USA, at the age of 99 on 17 Feb 1996.

The oldest male parachutist is George Salyer, who made a tandem jump from an altitude of 3,658 m (12,001 ft) aged 97 at Harvey Airfield, Snohomish, Washington, USA, on 27 June 1998.

Sylvia Brett (UK) became the oldest female solo parachutist when she jumped at Cranfield, Beds, UK, at the age of 80 on 23 Aug 1986.

OLDEST HOT-AIR BALLOONIST
Florence Laine of New Zealand was 102 years old when she flew in a hot-air balloon at Cust, New Zealand, on 26 Sept 1996.

OLDEST OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST
Oscar Swahn (Sweden) was in the winning Running Deer shooting team at the age of 64 in 1912. He was a silver medallist in the same event in 1920, aged 72.

OLDEST ATHLETE
Baba Joginder Singh was believed to have been 105 years old when he competed in the discus event at the 1998 Indian National Athletics Meet for Veterans, held in Thane, Mumbai (Bombay). He was the only competitor aged over 100.

OLDEST GROOM
Harry Stevens was 103 years old when he married 84-year-old Thelma Lucas at the Caravilla Retirement Home, Wisconsin, USA, on 3 Dec 1984.

OLDEST BRIDE
Minnie Munro became the world's oldest bride when she married Dudley Reid at the age of 102 in Point Clare, NSW, Australia, on 31 May 1991. Reid was 83 years old.

LONGEST MARRIAGE
Canadian hunter and trapper Joseph Henry Jarvis (b 15 June 1899) and his wife Annie (b 10 Oct 1904) have been married for 79 years – a record for a living couple. The pair wed on 15 July 1921 at Mooshide, Yukon, Canada, and have 12 children.

OLDEST DIVORCED COUPLE
The oldest divorcing couple on record are Simon and Ida Stern of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. When they ended their marriage in Feb 1984, she was 91 and he was 97.

OLDEST TIGHTROPE WALKER
William Ivy Baldwin became the world's oldest ever tightrope walker when he crossed South Boulder Canyon, Colorado, USA, on his 82nd birthday on 31 July 1948. The wire he walked across was 97.5 m (320 ft) long and the drop was 38.1 m (125 ft).

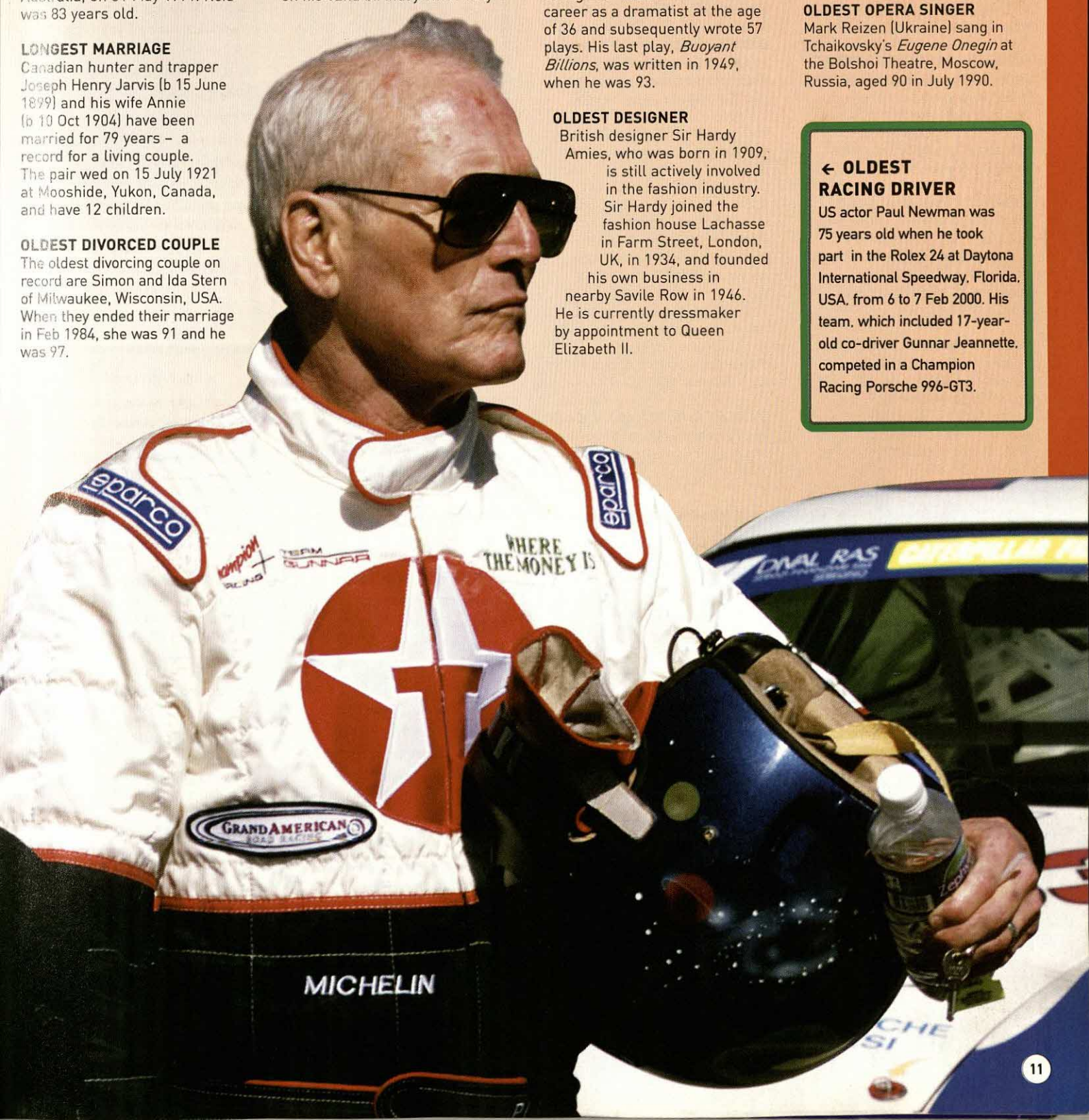
OLDEST PLAYWRIGHT
George Bernard Shaw started his career as a dramatist at the age of 36 and subsequently wrote 57 plays. His last play, *Buoyant Billions*, was written in 1949, when he was 93.

OLDEST DESIGNER
British designer Sir Hardy Amies, who was born in 1909, is still actively involved in the fashion industry. Sir Hardy joined the fashion house Lachasse in Farm Street, London, UK, in 1934, and founded his own business in nearby Savile Row in 1946. He is currently dressmaker by appointment to Queen Elizabeth II.

OLDEST TUBA PLAYER
Jack Hogg of Wirral, UK, has been a regular member of the Heswall Concert Band since joining at the age of 94 in 1998.

OLDEST OPERA SINGER
Mark Reizen (Ukraine) sang in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* at the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow, Russia, aged 90 in July 1990.

← OLDEST RACING DRIVER
US actor Paul Newman was 75 years old when he took part in the Rolex 24 at Daytona International Speedway, Florida, USA, from 6 to 7 Feb 2000. His team, which included 17-year-old co-driver Gunnar Jeannette, competed in a Champion Racing Porsche 996-GT3.



Big Stuff

BIGGEST STONE SCULPTURE
The mounted figures of Jefferson Davis, Robert E Lee and General Thomas Jonathan (Stonewall) Jackson are 27.4 m (90 ft) high and cover 0.5 ha (1.33 acres) on the face of Stone Mountain near Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

BIGGEST COTTON SCULPTURE
Between May 1998 and April 1999 Anant Narayan Khairnar of Jalagon, India, made a 2.28-m-tall (7-ft 6-in) sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi out of cotton wool. It weighed 20 kg (44 lb).

BIGGEST REVOLVING GLOBE
Eartha, a sphere with a diameter of 12.52 m (41 ft 18 in) and a weight of 2,540 kg (5,600 lb), was built by the DeLorme publishing company in Yarmouth, Maine, USA, in 1998.

BIGGEST RUBBER BAND BALL
In April 1998 John Bain of Delaware, USA, created a 907.18-kg (2,000-lb) rubber band ball from bands he had collected while working in his office's post room. The ball had a circumference of 3.86 m (12 ft 8.5 in).

BIGGEST PADLOCK
A mild steel padlock hand-made in 1955 by Muhammad Rafique of Pakistan is 30.7 cm (12 in) wide, 54.7 cm (21.5 in) high and 10.5 cm (4 in) thick. It weighs 50.6 kg (111.6 lb).

BIGGEST FLAG
The world's largest flag is the US 'Superflag', owned by 'Ski' Demski of Long Beach, California, USA. It measures 154 m x 78 m (505 ft x 225 ft) and weighs 1.36 tonnes (1.34 tons). It was made by Humphrey's Flag Co of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, and was unfurled at the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River, Arizona/Nevada border, USA, on 14 June 1992.

The largest flag flown from a flagstaff is a Brazilian national flag in Brasilia, Brazil. It measures a record 70 m x 100 m (229 ft 8 in x 328 ft 1 in).

BIGGEST CHRISTMAS CRACKER
The largest functional Christmas cracker ever constructed was 55.45 m (181 ft 11 in) long and 3.6 m (11 ft 9 in) in diameter. It was made by the ex-international rugby league footballer Ray Price for Markson Sparks! of New South Wales, Australia, and was pulled in the car park of Westfield Shopping Town, Chatswood, Sydney, NSW, Australia, on 16 Dec 1999.

⊙ BIGGEST DISCO BALL
A disco ball at the Mayan Club, Los Angeles, California, USA, has a diameter of 2.41 m (7 ft 11.25 in) and weighs 137.89 kg (304 lb). Made by Big Millennium Balls of Santa Clarita, California, it consists of 6,900 mirror squares, each measuring 5 cm x 5 cm (2 in x 2 in).

⊙ BIGGEST DRUM
The Ireland Millennium Drum, designed by Brian Fleming and Paraic Breathnac and constructed by Bill Wright and Seamus Purcell, has a diameter of 4.72 m (15 ft 6 in) and a depth of 1.91 m (6 ft 3 in). Made from birch plywood and sailcloth, it was first played at the St Patrick's Festival in Dublin, Ireland, on 13 March 1999, to mark the launch of Ireland's Millennium Festivals.

BIGGEST CANDLE
A 24.38-m-high (80-ft) candle with a diameter of 2.59 m (8 ft 6 in) was exhibited at the 1897 Stockholm Exhibition, Sweden, by the firm Lindahls.

BIGGEST PLAYABLE GUITAR
The largest playable guitar in the world is 11.63 m (38 ft 2 in) tall and 4.87 m (16 ft) wide, with a weight of 446 kg (1,865 lb). Modelled on the Gibson Flying V, it was made by students of Shakamak High School in Jasonville, Indiana, USA. It was unveiled on 17 May 1991, when, powered by six amplifiers, it was played simultaneously by six members of the school.

BIGGEST RECORDER
A fully-functional recorder made from specially-treated stone pine, with a length of 5 m (16 ft 5 in), was constructed in Iceland

⊙ LONGEST WEDDING DRESS TRAIN
The world's longest wedding dress train measured a record 204.1 m (670 ft). Made by Hege Solli (Norway) for the wedding of Hege Lorence and Rolf Rotset on 1 June 1996, it was carried by 186 bridesmaids and pageboys.

by Stefán Geir Karlsson in 1994. Each of its holes is 8.5 cm (3.3 in) in diameter.

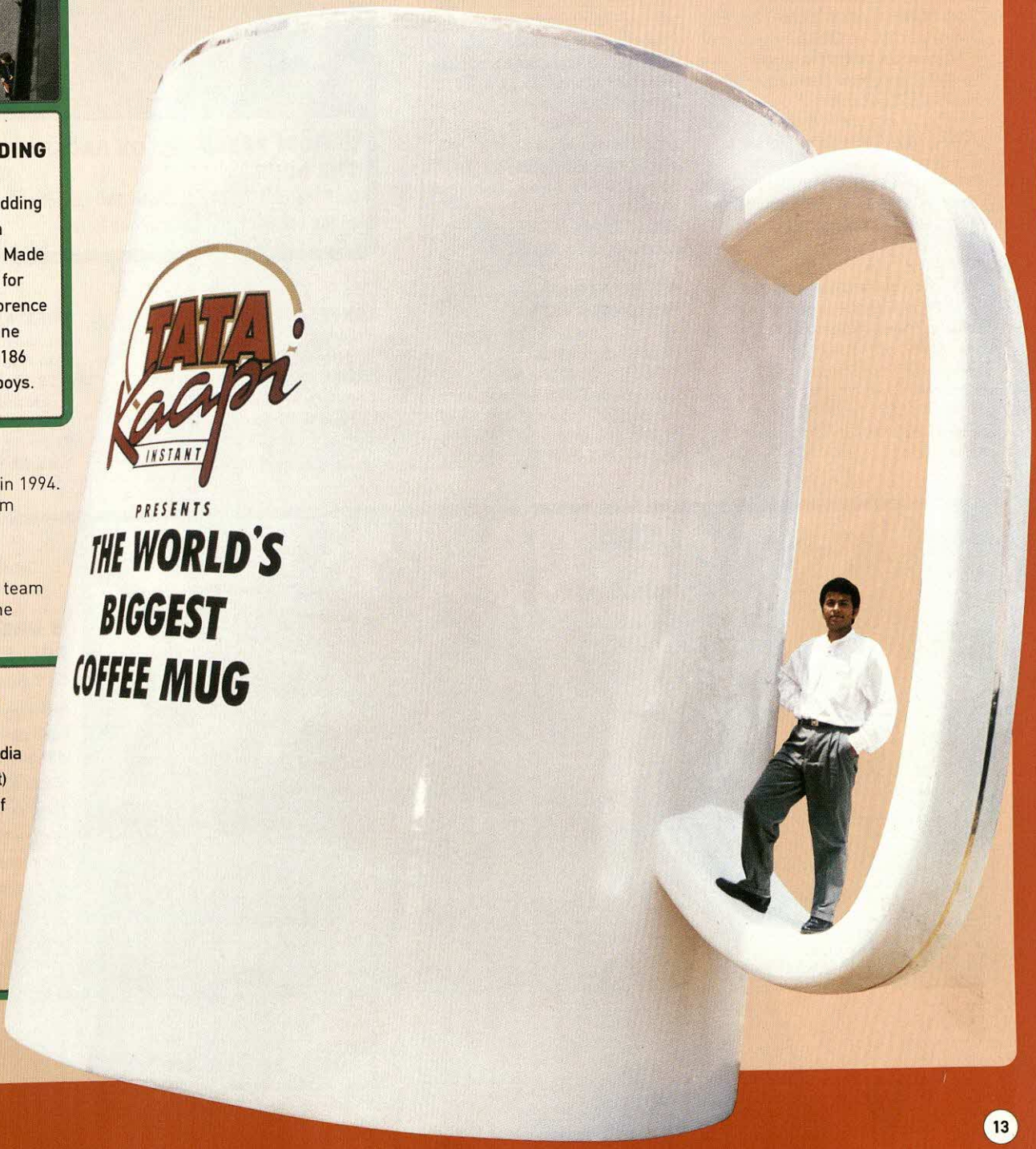
BIGGEST SUITCASE
From 7 to 15 Feb 1999 a team of eight people from Sane Sports Wear, Vadodara, India, built a suitcase measuring 4.06 m x 2.66 m x 1.26 m (13.33 ft x 8.75 ft x 4.16 ft).

BIGGEST RUBBISH BIN
On 22 Oct 1998 a galvanized steel bin with a height of 5.38 m (18 ft) and a diameter of 3.65 m (12 ft) was made by BRESCO of Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The bin had a capacity of 57,644.4 litres (15,228 gal).

BIGGEST BED NET
The world's largest mosquito-repelling bed net measures 20 m x 20 m x 3 m (65 ft 7.5 in x 65 ft 7.5 in x 9 ft 10 in) – 225 times the size of a normal bed net. It was displayed at Eagle Square, Abuja, Nigeria, on 18 April 2000, to mark the World Health Organization's African Summit on Roll Back Malaria.

BIGGEST GOLF TEE
In Sept 1999 Des Sawa Jr of Tobermory, Ontario, Canada, made a maple-wood golf tee that was 2.2 m (7 ft 4 in) long. It had a head width of 46 cm (18.5 in) and a shaft width of 20 cm (7.9 in).

→ BIGGEST MUG
A mug made by Parnassus Events of India in 1998 is 6.096 m (20 ft) high, with a diameter of 4.26 m (14 ft) and a weight of 3.6 tonnes (3.5 tons). It was unveiled at Bangalore Palace, India, on 14 Aug 1998.



Strength

GREATEST AEROPLANE PULLS
On 6 July 1999 a team of 60 men from Hants, UK, pulled a 233-tonne (220-ton) Boeing 747 a distance of 100 m (328 ft) in 59.13 seconds, at Gatwick Airport, UK. The stunt was performed in order to raise money for the Romsey Hospital Appeal.

A team of 10 Ohakea Air Force personnel pulled a 37-tonne (36-ton) Boeing 737-300 a distance of 100 m (328 ft) in 47 seconds, at Palmerston North Airport, New Zealand, on 17 May 1998.

David Huxley (Australia) pulled a 187-tonne (184-ton) Boeing 747-400 a distance of 91 m (298 ft 6 in) in 1 min 27.7 sec, at Sydney, NSW, Australia, on 15 Oct 1997.

On 9 Dec 1998 a team made up of eight members of the Suffolk Braves Wheelchair Basketball, UK, pulled a 4-tonne (3.9-ton) Cessna 421 Eagle executive aircraft a distance of 500 m (1,640 ft) in 16 min 20 sec, at Cambridge Airport, UK.

LONGEST AEROPLANE RESTRAINT
On 20 June 1997 Otto Acron (Australia) prevented two Cessna 223.7-kW (300-hp) aeroplanes from taking off in opposite directions for more than 15 seconds. The record was set at Hervey Bay, Qld, Australia.

GREATEST TRAIN PULLS
Juraj Barbaric (Slovakia) single-handedly pulled a 360-tonne (354-ton) train a distance of 7.7 m (25 ft 3 in) along a railway track at Košice, Slovakia, on 25 May 1996.

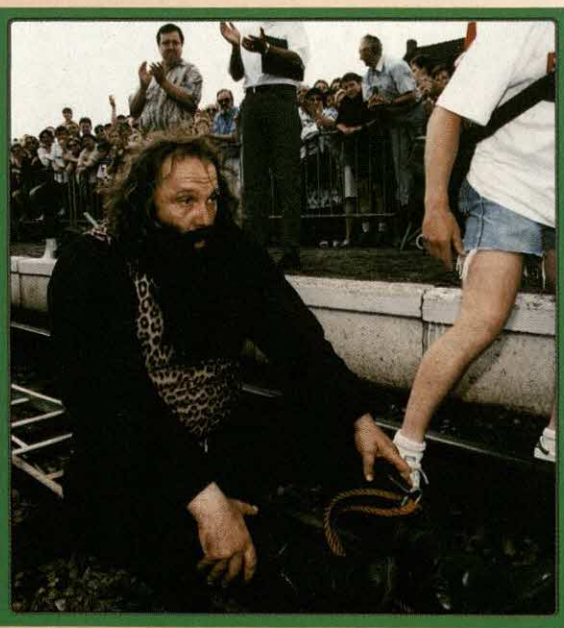
Grant Edwards (Australia) single-handedly pulled a 201-tonne (198-ton) train a distance of 36.8 m (120 ft 9 in) along a railway track at Thirlmere, NSW, Australia, on 4 April 1996.

OLDEST PERSON TO PULL A PASSENGER VESSEL
Maurice Catarcio (USA) was 69 years 6 months old when he pulled the 44-tonne (43-ton) boat *Silver Bullet*, with 125 passengers on board, a distance of 91.44 m (300 ft) at Sunset Lake, New Jersey, USA, on 12 Sept 1998.

⊙ MOST PRESS-UPS ON BACKS OF HANDS IN ONE HOUR
On 5 March 2000 Paddy Doyle (UK) completed a record 660 press-ups on the backs of his hands in one hour.

LONGEST FIELD GUN PULL
In 24 hours from 2 to 3 April 1993, three teams of eight men from the British Army's 72 Ordnance Company (V) pulled a 1,800-kg (3,968-lb) 25-pounder field gun a distance of 177.98 km (110.6 miles) at Donnington, UK.

GREATEST TRUCK PULL
On 10 Nov 1999 Harold 'Chief Iron Bear' Collins (USA) pulled a 22.87-tonne (22.51-ton) truck a distance of 30,5 m (100 ft) in less than 40 seconds. The record was set in New York City, USA.



⊙ GREATEST WEIGHT PULLED WITH TEETH
On 9 June 1996 Walter Arfeuille (Belgium) pulled eight railway carriages with a combined weight of 223,880 kg (493,563 lb) a distance of 3.2 m (10 ft 6 in) along a track, with his teeth. The record was set at Diksmuide, Belgium.

MOST WEIGHT SUSTAINED
On 13 Aug 1999 Kahled Dahdouh of Lowell, Massachusetts, USA, sustained a record weight of 1,381.19 kg (3,045 lb) on his chest for five seconds, on the set of *Guinness World Records: Primetime*. The weight comprised three body builders standing on cinder blocks.

HEAVIEST CAR BALANCED ON HEAD
John Evans (UK) balanced a 159.6-kg (352-lb) gutted Mini on his head for 33 seconds at The London Studios, UK, on 24 May 1999.

GREATEST WEIGHT LIFTED WITH TEETH
On 31 March 1990 Walter Arfeuille (Belgium) lifted weights totalling 281.5 kg (620.6 lb) a distance of 17 cm (6.7 in) off the ground with his teeth. The record was set in Paris, France.

MOST BEER KEGS BALANCED
John Evans (UK) balanced 11 empty beer kegs on his head for the required 10 seconds on *Guinness World Records: Primetime* on 17 June 1998.

MOST BRICKS BALANCED ON HEAD
John Evans (UK) balanced 101 bricks, weighing a total of 188.7 kg (416 lb), on his head for 10 seconds at BBC TV Centre, London, UK, on 24 Dec 1997.

HEAVIEST WEIGHT JUGGLED
Yuri Scherbina (Ukraine) threw a 16-kg (35.28-lb) weightball from hand to hand 100 times on the eastern summit of Mount Elbrus, Russia (altitude 4,200 m, or 13,800 ft), on 27 July 1995.

MOST MILK CRATES BALANCED ON HEAD
John Evans (UK) balanced a total of 95 milk crates, each of which weighed 1.36 kg (3 lb), on his head for 10 seconds at Kerr Street Green, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, UK, on 18 July 1997.

MOST MILK CRATES BALANCED ON CHIN
Terry Cole (UK) balanced 29 milk crates on his chin for the minimum specified time of 10 seconds on 16 May 1994.

GREATEST DISPLAY OF LUNG POWER
On 26 Sept 1994 Nicholas Mason (UK) inflated a 1-kg (2.2-lb) balloon to a diameter of 2.44 m (8 ft) in 45 min 2.5 sec.

STRONGEST HOD CARRIER
On 20 Nov 1993 Russell Bradley of Worcester, UK, carried bricks with a combined weight of 264 kg (582 lb) in a hod weighing 48 kg (105.8 lb) for 5 m (16 ft 5 in) on flat ground, before ascending a ramp to a height of 2.49 m (8 ft 2 in). This gave a total weight of 312 kg (687.9 lb).

FASTEST BEER KEG LIFTER
Tom Gaskin (UK) raised a 62.5-kg (137.8-lb) beer keg above his head 902 times in the space of six hours at Liska House, Newry, Northern Ireland, UK, on 26 Oct 1996.

MOST BALLS BALANCED ON HEAD
The greatest number of football-sized PVC balls balanced on the head is 548, by John Evans (UK) at Leeds, W Yorks, UK, on 28 June 1998. The balls were contained inside a goal.

← GREATEST WEIGHT LIFTED WITH ONE EAR
On 17 Dec 1998 Li Jian Hua of Jiangshan, China, lifted a 50-kg (110.1-lb) column of bricks hanging from a clamp joined to his ear on *Guinness World Records: Primetime*. He held the weight for 9.3 seconds.

Speed

FASTEST HALF MARATHON PUSHING A PRAM
The fastest time in which anyone has completed a half marathon while pushing a pram is 1 hr 49 min 18 sec, by Peter Taylor (UK). He came 72nd out of 95 finishers in the East Yorkshire Marathon at Driffield, UK, on 11 May 1997.

FASTEST BATH TUB RACER
The record time for completing a 57.9-km (36-mile) bath tub race on water is 1 hr 22 min 27 sec, by Greg Mutton at the Grafton Jacaranda Festival, NSW, Australia, on 8 Nov 1987. The tubs may not be longer than 1.9 m (75 in).

FASTEST WHEELIE-BIN RACERS
The men's wheelie-bin race record is held by Shaun and Aaron Viney, who completed a 110-m (361-ft) course in 31.1 seconds at Westfield Devils Junior Soccer Club, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia, on 21 Feb 1999. The competitors had to sprint 10 m (32.8 ft) to their stationary bins before taking it in turns to be pulled over 50-m (164-ft) stretches of the course.

The women's record is 48.84 sec, by Olivia and Karla Jones at the same venue on the same day.

⊙ FASTEST POLECLIMB
Jeremy Barrell (UK) climbed up a 24.4-m-high (80-ft) pole in a record time of 10.75 seconds during the 1999 World 25-m Poleclimbing Championship, held at the Hampshire County Show, UK, on 28 July 1999. He broke his own previous record of 11.36 seconds, set on 28 July 1998 at the same show.

FASTEST STILT-WALKERS
The fastest long-distance stilt-walker on record was M Garisoain (France), who stilt-walked 8 km (4.97 miles) from Bayonne to Biarritz, France, in 42 minutes in 1892 – an average speed of 11.42 km/h (7.10 mph).

The fastest stilt-walker over short distances is Roy Luiking (Netherlands). On 28 May 1992 he covered 100 m (328 ft) in 13.01 seconds while wearing 30.5-cm-high (1-ft) stilts, at Didam, Netherlands.

FASTEST POGO-STICK UP THE CN TOWER
Ashrita Furman (USA) pogo-sticked up the 1,899 steps of the CN Tower, Toronto, Canada, in 57 min 51 sec on 23 July 1999.

FASTEST SACK RACER
Ashrita Furman completed a 10-km (6.2-mile) sack race in a time of 1 hr 25 min 10 sec at Mount Rushmore National Park, South Dakota, USA, on 6 Aug 1998.

FASTEST TREE TOPPER
Guy German climbed a 30.5-m (100-ft) timber spar pole with a circumference of 100 cm (39 in) and sawed off the top in a record 53.35 seconds at Albany, Oregon, USA, on 3 July 1989.

FASTEST KNOT-TYER
The fastest recorded time in which anyone has tied the six *Boy Scout Handbook* knots (square knot, sheet bend, sheepshank, round turn and two half hitches, clove hitch and bowline) on individual ropes is 8.1 seconds, by Clinton Bailey Sr of Pacific City, Oregon, USA, on 13 April 1977.

FASTEST SPIKE DRIVER
On 11 Aug 1984 Dale C Jones of Utah, USA, drove six 17.8-cm (7-in) railroad spikes in a time of 26.4 seconds at the World Championship Professional Spike Driving Competition, held at the Golden Spike National Historic Site, Utah.

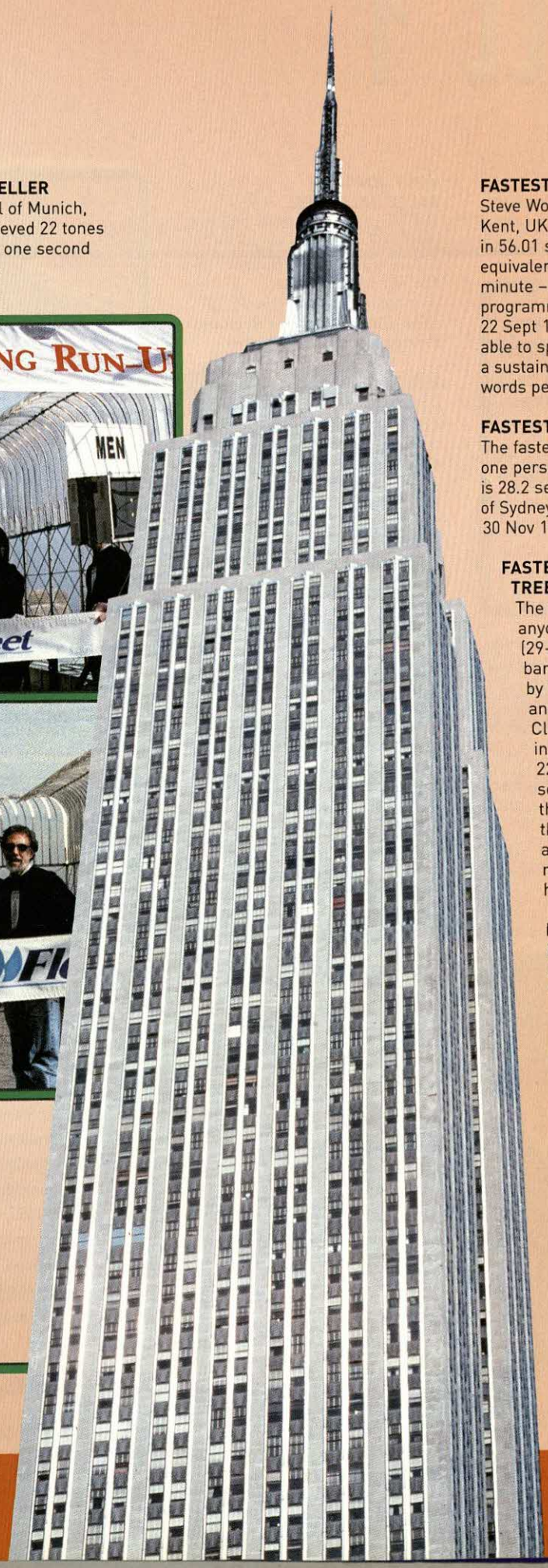
FASTEST TAP-DANCER
The fastest rate ever measured for tap dancing is 38 taps per second, achieved by James Devine at the MCM recording studios, Sydney, NSW, Australia, on 25 May 1998.

⊙ FASTEST WINDOW CLEANER
Terry Burrows of South Ockendon, Essex, UK, cleaned three standard 114.3-cm x 114.3-cm (45-in x 45-in) office windows, set in a frame, in 11.34 seconds at AJ Beveridge, Edinburgh, UK, on 22 July 1999. He used a 30-cm-long (11.8-in) squeegee and 9 litres (2.4 gal) of water.

FASTEST FLAMENCO DANCER
Solero de Jérez attained a rate of 16 heel taps per second in a routine in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, in Sept 1967.

FASTEST YODELLER
Thomas Scholl of Munich, Germany, achieved 22 tones (15 falsetto) in one second on 9 Feb 1992.

⊙ FASTEST TIME TO RUN UP THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
The fastest time in which anyone has completed the annual race up the 1,576 steps of the Empire State Building, New York City, USA, is 9 min 53 sec, by Paul Crake (above) of Canberra, Australia, on 23 Feb 2000. The women's record is 12 min 19 sec, by Belinda Soszyn (Australia, top) in 1996.



FASTEST TALKER
Steve Woodmore of Orpington, Kent, UK, spoke 595 words in 56.01 seconds – a rate equivalent to 637.4 words per minute – on the ITV television programme *Motor Mouth* on 22 Sept 1990. Few people are able to speak articulately at a sustained speed of over 300 words per minute.

FASTEST BED MAKER
The fastest time in which one person has made a bed is 28.2 seconds, by Wendy Wall of Sydney, NSW, Australia, on 30 Nov 1978.

FASTEST COCONUT TREE CLIMB
The fastest time in which anyone has climbed a 9-m (29-ft 6-in) coconut tree barefoot is 4.88 seconds, by Fuatai Solo (Fiji) at the annual Coconut Tree Climbing Competition in Sukuna Park, Fiji, on 22 Aug 1980. Solo was so pleased with his win – the third in succession – that he climbed the tree again, clutching the prize money of $100 (£43) in his mouth.

FASTEST PANTOMIME HORSE
On 3 Aug 1999 Geoff Seale and Stuart Coleman (both UK) ran a distance of 100 m (328 ft) in a time of 16.7 seconds while wearing a pantomime horse costume. The record was set at St Andrew's School, Cobham, Surrey, UK.

FASTEST KITE SPEED
On 22 Sept 1989 Pete DiGiacomo flew a kite at a record speed of 193 km/h (120 mph) at Ocean City, Maryland, USA.

Skill 1

MOST COINS BALANCED
Aleksandr Bendikov of Mogilev, Belarus, stacked a pyramid of 880 coins on the edge of a vertically-standing coin on 15 Nov 1995.

The most coins stacked in a single column on the edge of a vertically-standing coin is 253, by Dipak Syal of Yamuna Nagar, India, on 3 May 1991. He balanced Indian one-rupee pieces on top of a five-rupee piece. He has also balanced 10 one-rupee coins and 10 10-paise coins in a single column, alternating them horizontally and vertically.

MOST DOMINOES STACKED
Ralf Laue of Leipzig, Germany, successfully stacked 555 dominoes on a single supporting domino on 2 July 1999. The stack remained standing for an hour.

MOST MATCHSTICKS BALANCED
The greatest number of matchsticks balanced on the neck of a bottle is 8,146, in 351 layers, by Peter Both on 2 March 1995. The matchsticks reached a height of 80.5 cm (2 ft 6 in), beating Both's previous record by 20.1 cm (7.9 in).

MOST BOWLING BALLS BALANCED
The most bowling balls stacked vertically, without the use of adhesives, is 10, by Dave Kremer of Waukesha, Wisconsin, USA, on the US TV show *Guinness World Records: Primetime* on 19 Nov 1998.

MOST GOLF BALLS BALANCED
Don Athey of Bridgeport, Ohio, USA, stacked nine golf balls vertically, without the use of adhesives, on 4 Oct 1998.

MOST BEER MATS FLIPPED
Dean Gould (UK) flipped a pile of 111 beer mats – each of which was 1.2 mm (0.04 in) thick – through an angle of 180° and caught them, in Edinburgh, UK, on 13 Jan 1993.

MOST BEER MATS CAUGHT
Dean Gould (UK) stacked 2,224 beer mats on his elbow and forearm, then caught them in one hand with a downward swipe, on a ferry between Felixstowe, Suffolk, and Harwich, Essex, both UK, on 15 March 1998.

LONGEST BEER-GLASS PUSH
The greatest distance that a 0.5-litre (0.88-pint) glass of beer has been pushed by the handle down a bar no wider than 50 cm (19.7 in) is 33.71 m (110 ft 7 in), by Gerrit Hesselink (Netherlands) at the Summer Festival, Saasveld, Netherlands, on 27 June 1998.

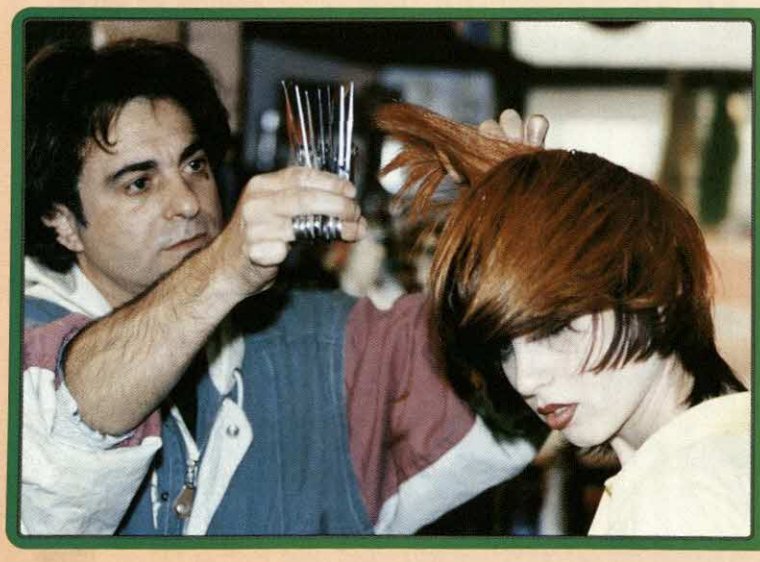
⊙ MOST CLOTHES PEGS CLIPPED ON FACE AND NECK
Kevin Thackwell of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, UK, attached 116 clothes pegs to his face and neck in five minutes at the Horseshoe Inn, Church Lawton, Cheshire, UK, on 27 Sept 1999.

FASTEST SHEEP SHEARER
Godfrey Bowen (New Zealand) sheared a Cheviot ewe in 46 seconds at the Royal Highland Show in Dundee, UK, in June 1957.

MOST PEOPLE SHAVED
Denny Rowe shaved 1,994 men in one hour with a retractor safety razor at Herne Bay, Kent, UK, on 19 June 1988. He averaged 1.8 seconds per volunteer and drew blood four times.

On 10 Nov 1993 Tom Rodden of Chatham, Kent, UK, shaved 278 volunteers in one hour with a cut-throat razor. He averaged 12.9 seconds per person and drew blood seven times.

MOST HAIR SPLITS
Alfred West (UK) has succeeded in splitting a human hair 17 times – ie into 18 parts – on eight different occasions.



⊙ MOST SCISSORS USED TO CUT HAIR
Dani Abergel (professionally known as Dani Figaro) of Dimona, Israel, can style hair using seven pairs of scissors in one hand, controlling each pair independently. Abergel started to use multiple pairs of scissors in 1997, and now regularly uses seven at a time in his Dimona salon. He claims that the technique allows him to create a 'more interesting' look.

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MOST WORMS CHARMED
Tom Shufflebotham charmed 511 worms out of the ground at the first World Charming Championship, held in Willaston, Cheshire, UK, on 5 July 1980. Entrants charm worms on a 3-m² (32.3 ft²) plot in a time of 30 minutes.

MOST MOSQUITOES KILLED
The record is 21 in five minutes, by Henri Pellonpää at the 1995 World Mosquito Killing Championships in Pelkosenniemi, Finland.

← MOST HULA-HOOPS SPUN
The most hula-hoops spun simultaneously between the shoulders and the hips is 82, by Lori Lynn Lomeli (USA) at the Atlantis Casino Resort, Reno, Nevada, USA, on 5 Aug 1999. Each of the hoops completed three full revolutions.

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Skill 2

LONGEST BARREL JUMP
The longest barrel jump on record is 8.97 m (29 ft 5 in) over 18 barrels, by Yvon Jolin at Terrebonne, Québec, Canada, on 25 Jan 1981. To gain the speed needed to jump these sorts of distances, barrel-jump record attempts are performed on ice using ice-skates.

The women's record is 6.84 m (22 ft 4 in) over 13 barrels, by Marie-Josée Houle at Lasalle, Québec, Canada, on 1 March 1987.

MOST MILK MILKED IN ONE DAY
On 25 Aug 1992 Joseph Love of Kilifi Plantations Ltd, Kenya, hand-milked a record 531 litres (117 gal) of milk from 30 cows.

MOST SNAKES MILKED
Over a 14-year period from 1951 to 1965, Bernard Keyter, a supervisor at the South African Institute for Medical Research in Johannesburg, South Africa, milked a record 780,000 venomous snakes, obtaining 3,960 litres (870 gal) of venom. He was never bitten.

MOST NUMBERS MEMORIZED
On 6 Nov 1999 Gert Mittring (Germany) successfully recited 27 random digits from memory, in the correct order, after the numbers had been flashed up on a screen for three seconds. The record was set in Cologne, Germany.

FASTEST STAMP LICKER
Diane Sheer of London, UK, licked 225 stamps and stuck them onto envelopes in 5 minutes at the Normandie Hotel, Bournemouth, Dorset, UK, on 3 Aug 1997.

FASTEST RUBIK'S CUBE COMPLETION
Vietnamese refugee Minh Thai won the 1982 World Rubik Cube Championship in Budapest, Hungary, with a time of 22.95 seconds.

LONGEST TIME TOP SPUN
Hall Graham (USA) spun a spinning top for 2 hr 52 min 11 sec before its rim made contact with the ground at Woodstock High School, Georgia, USA, in Dec 1998.

MOST CARDS HELD IN A FAN
On 18 March 1994 Ralf Laue (Germany) held 326 standard playing cards in a fan in one hand, with the value and colour of each one visible, at Leipzig, Germany.

LONGEST CARD THROW
Jim Karol of North Catasauqua, Pennsylvania, USA, threw a standard playing card a distance of 61.26 m (67 yd) at Mount Ida College, Massachusetts, USA, on 18 Oct 1992.

LONGEST PIECE OF FRENCH KNITTING
Ted Hannaford of Sittingbourne, Kent, UK, has produced a piece of French knitting that was 13.64 km (8.48 miles) long when measured in April 1999. He started knitting it more than 10 years ago.

LONGEST PEANUT THROW
On 21 Feb 1999 Adrian Finch of Tasmania, Australia, threw a 4-g (0.14-oz) peanut a distance of 34.1 m (37.3 yd) at Westfield Devils Junior Soccer Club, Launceston, Tas, Australia.

⊙ HOUSE OF CARDS WITH MOST STOREYS
Between 15 and 27 May 1999 Bryan Berg of Spirit Lake, Iowa, USA, built a 7.4-m-tall (24-ft 4-in), 127-storey free-standing house of cards from 1,200 packs of standard playing cards, without using adhesives. The record was set at the College of Design, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA.

⊙ GREATEST DISTANCE RUBBER BAND SHOT
Leo Clouser (USA) shot a rubber band a record-breaking distance of 30.16 m (99 ft) at the Wyomissing Area High School Gym, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, USA, on 18 June 1999.

GREATEST DISTANCE MILK SQUIRTED FROM EYE
On 20 Nov 1998 Jim Cichon of Milford, Pennsylvania, USA, squirted milk from his eye a record distance of 2.01 m (6 ft 7 in). He performed this feat on the set of *Guinness World Records: Primetime* in Los Angeles, California, USA.

GREATEST DISTANCE CRICKET SPAT
The greatest distance that anyone has spat a dead cricket from their mouth is 9.14 m (10 yd), by Danny Capps of Madison, Wisconsin, USA,

on the set of *Guinness World Records: Primetime* on 26 June 1998.

GREATEST DISTANCE PUMPKIN SHOT
On 19 Sept 1998 the *Aludium Q-36 Pumpkin Modulator*, an air cannon built and manned by Matt Parker, Chuck Heerde, Rod Litwiller, Steve Young and James Knepp, shot a pumpkin a record distance of 1,368 m (1,496 yd) at the Morton Pumpkin Festival, Illinois, USA.

MOST HAMBURGERS STUFFED IN MOUTH
Johnny Reitz (USA) managed to stuff three regulation-sized hamburgers (including buns and condiments) into his mouth at the same time on the set of *Guinness World Records: Primetime* in Los Angeles, California, USA, on 17 June 1998. He was not allowed to swallow any part of the hamburgers.

MOST M&MS FLIPPED AND CAUGHT
The record for flipping peanut M&Ms from the back of the ear into another person's mouth is 16 in one minute, by Mark Needem (USA), who flipped the sweets to his brother Ben on the set of *Guinness World Records: Primetime* in Los Angeles, California, USA, on 18 Aug 1998.

MOST WORMS EATEN
Mark Hogg of Louisville, Kentucky, USA, holds the record for swallowing the most live worms in 30 seconds, having eaten 62 night crawlers on the set of *Guinness World Records: Primetime* in Los Angeles, California, USA, on 19 Nov 1998.

GREATEST DISTANCE SPAGHETTI SHOT FROM NOSE
On 16 Dec 1998 Kevin Cole of Carlsbad, New Mexico, USA, ejected a spaghetti strand from his nose a record distance of 19.05 cm (7.5 in). He performed this feat on the set of *Guinness World Records: Primetime* in Los Angeles, California, USA.

MOST YO-YO TRICKS
On 22 July 1999 'Fast Eddie' McDonald completed a record 35 yo-yo tricks in one minute at the Paulson Street Parket, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

→ LONGEST ROLL IN A ZORB BALL
The greatest distance travelled in a Zorb ball in a single roll is 323 m (353 yd), by Rich Eley (UK, centre) near Glynde, E Sussex, UK, on 10 May 1999. The ball reached a record speed of 50 km/h (31 mph).

Endurance 1

LONGEST TIME SPENT IN TREE
Bungkas climbed up a palm tree in the Indonesian village of Bengkes in 1970 and has been there ever since, living in a nest that he made from branches and leaves. Repeated efforts to persuade him to come down have failed.

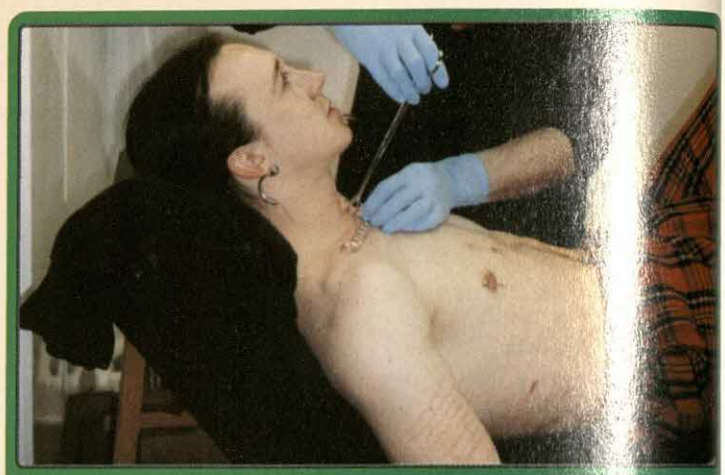
LONGEST STATIC WALL SIT
Rajkumar Chakraborty (India) stayed in an unsupported sitting position against a wall for 11 hr 5 min at Panposh Sports Hostel, Rourkela, India, on 22 April 1994.

LONGEST TIME SPENT STANDING
The greatest length of time that anyone has spent continuously standing is more than 17 years, by Swami Maujgiri Maharaj (India) between 1955 and 1973, while performing *tapasya* (penance). He would lean against a plank when he was sleeping.

LONGEST TIME SPENT ON TIGHTROPE
The world tightrope endurance record of 205 days was set by Jorge Ojeda-Guzmán from Orlando, Florida, USA, between 1 Jan and 25 July 1993. The 11-m-long (36-ft) wire was 10.7 m (35 ft) above the ground. Ojeda-Guzmán entertained the crowds of spectators by walking, balancing on a chair and dancing. He had a 91-cm x 91-cm (3-ft x 3-ft) wooden cabin at one end of the tightrope.

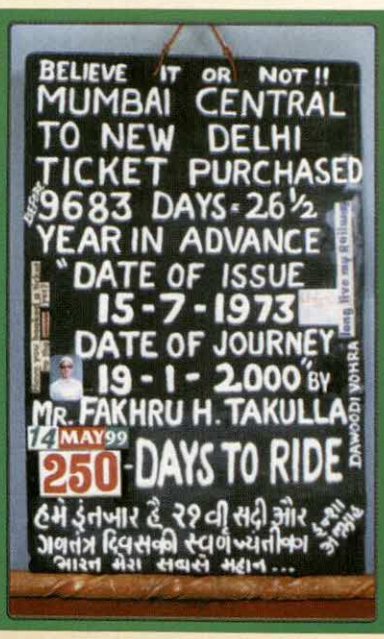
MOST HOPSCOTCH GAMES IN 24 HOURS
In 24 hours between 12 and 13 Jan 1998 Ashrita Furman (USA) successfully completed 434 games of hopscotch. The record was set at the Westin Regina Hotel, Cancun, Mexico.

MOST RATTLESNAKES SAT WITH IN BATHTUB
The record for sitting in a bathtub with the most live rattlesnakes is held jointly by Jackie Bibby of Fort Worth, Texas, USA, and Rosie Reynolds of Granbury, Texas, USA. They sat in two separate tubs with 75 Western Diamondback rattlesnakes each on the set of *Guinness World Records: Primetime* in Los Angeles, California, USA, on 24 Sept 1998.



⊙ MOST BODY PIERCINGS IN ONE SESSION
On 19 Sept 1999 Quille DeSade (New Zealand) received 90 new body piercings in one continuous session, without anaesthetic, at the Absolution Body Piercing Studio, Christchurch, New Zealand.

LONGEST MOVIE MARATHON
From 23 to 25 July 1999 Hajnalka Bulla, Gabor Lantai, Tamas Puska, Krisztian Galla, Mark McMenemy and Zoltan Belebyi watched feature-length films continuously for 37 hr 25 min at the Hollywood Multiplex, Budapest, Hungary. The 20 films viewed included *Armageddon* (USA, 1998), *Taxi* (Fra, 1998), *Face/Off* (USA, 1997) and 107 minutes of *Titanic* (USA, 1997).



⊙ MOST FORWARD-THINKING RAIL TRAVELLER
On 19 Jan 2000 Fakhruddin Takulla (India) travelled from Mumbai (Bombay) to New Delhi, both India, using a ticket he had purchased on 15 July 1973 – 26 years 6 months earlier. Takulla used the unlimited booking service offered by the Indian Railway Authority so that he could attend the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Indian Independence.

LONGEST RADIO DJ MARATHON
DJ Albert Vierhuis (Netherlands), who works for LOE Radio, played records in Elburg, Netherlands, for a total of 60 hours from midnight on 24 April 2000 to 12 pm on 26 April 2000.

LONGEST ARCADE MACHINE DANCE MARATHON
Mark e.t. of London, UK, danced on Konami's *Dancing Stage* arcade machine for a record eight hours at the Trocadero, London, UK, on 10 March 1999.

LONGEST DANCE MARATHON
The most taxing marathon dance ever staged as a public spectacle was performed by Mike Ritof and Edith Boudreaux, who logged 5,148 hr 28 min to win $2,000 (£412) at the Merry Garden Ballroom, Chicago, Illinois, USA, from 29 Aug 1930 to 1 April 1931. Their rest periods were progressively cut from 20 minutes per hour to 10, to 5, to no rest periods at all. Their dance steps were required to be at least 25.4 cm (10 in) long, and they were only allowed to close their eyes for 15 seconds at a time.

LONGEST CPR MARATHON
The world's longest cardiopulmonary resuscitation marathon took place from 20 to 26 Sept 1998 at Merry Hill Shopping Centre, West Midlands, UK. Two teams of two – Ben Albutt and Phil Watson, and Robert Cole and Daren Fradgley – performed CPR (15 compressions alternating with two breaths) on a dummy for 144 hours. The men were all members of the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

LONGEST CLAPPING SESSION
The record for continuous clapping (sustaining an average of 160 claps per minute, audible from 110 m or 120 yd away) is 58 hr 9 min, by V Jeyaraman of Tamil Nadu, India, from 12 to 15 Feb 1988.

LONGEST LESSON
A Hungarian language and literature lesson taught at Leõwey Klára Grammar School, Pécs, Hungary, by Szabolcs Zalay lasted for a record 24 hours from 18 to 19 June 1999. It was attended by 34 students.

← LONGEST KISS
On 5 April 1999 Karmit Tsubera (left) and Dror Orpaz kissed for a record 30 hr 45 min to win a kissing contest held in Rabin Square, Tel Aviv, Israel. A total of 107 couples took part in the event.

Endurance 2

LONGEST UNICYCLE RIDE
Hanspeter Beck (Australia) unicycled 6,238 km (3,876 miles) across Australia from Port Hedland, WA, to Melbourne, Victoria, from 30 June to 20 Aug 1985.

LONGEST HORSE-RIDE IN ARMOUR
The greatest distance ridden while wearing armour is 334.7 km (208 miles), by Dick Brown (UK). He left Edinburgh, UK, on 10 June 1989 and arrived in his home town of Dumfries four days later. His ride lasted for a total of 35 hr 25 min.

LONGEST WALK ON HANDS
The greatest distance covered by a person walking on their hands is 1,400 km (870 miles), by Johann Hurlinger (Austria) in 1900. He walked from Vienna, Austria, to Paris, France, in 55 daily 10-hour stints, averaging a speed of 2.54 km/h (1.58 mph).

LONGEST BACKWARDS WALK
From 15 April 1931 to 24 Oct 1932 Plennie Wingo (USA) walked backwards from Santa Monica, California, USA, to Istanbul, Turkey – a distance of 12,875 km (8,000 miles).

LONGEST BACKWARDS RUNS
Arvind Pandya (India) ran backwards across the USA from Los Angeles, California, to New York City in 107 days between 18 Aug and 3 Dec 1984. He also ran backwards from John O' Groats to Land's End, UK, in 26 days 7 hr between 6 April and 2 May 1990, covering a total distance of 1,512 km (940 miles).

LONGEST CRAWLS
The longest continuous crawl on record (defined as progression with one or other of the knees in unbroken contact with the ground) is 50.6 km (31.4 miles), by Peter McKinlay and John Murrie. They covered 115 laps of an athletics track at Falkirk, UK, on 28–29 March 1992.

From Dec 1983 to March 1985 Jagdish Chander (India) crawled 1,400 km (870 miles) from Aligarh to Jammu, India. He made the journey in order to appease the Hindu goddess Mata.

GREATEST DISTANCE RIDDEN ON ESCALATORS
Arulanantham Suresh Joachim (Sri Lanka) travelled a total distance of 225.4 km (140 miles) on escalators at the Westfield Shopping Centre, Barwood, NSW, Australia, from 25 to 31 May 1998. His ride lasted for 145 hr 57 min.

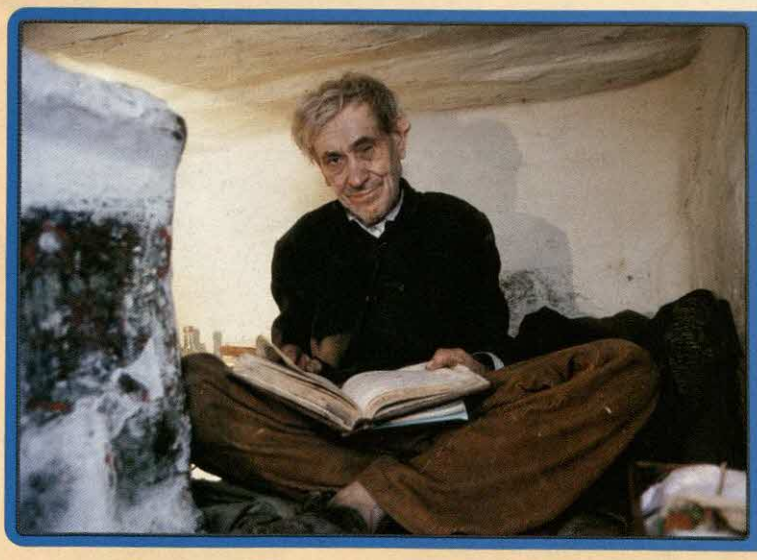
LONGEST LEAP-FROG
The greatest distance covered while leap-frogging is 1,603.2 km (996.2 miles), by 14 students from Stanford University, California, USA. They began on 16 May 1991 and stopped 244 hr 43 min later, on 26 May 1991.

GREATEST DISTANCE COVERED WHILE CARRYING A BRICK
The greatest distance over which a brick weighing 4 kg (9 lb) has been carried in a nominated ungloved hand in an uncradled downward pincer grip is 132.3 km (82.2 miles), by Manjit Singh (UK) on 6–7 Nov 1998.

The women's record is 36.2 km (22.5 miles), by Wendy Morris (UK) on 28 April 1986.

GREATEST DISTANCE TRAVELLED IN A BATH TUB
The greatest distance covered in 24 hours by paddling a bath tub on still water using the hands is 145.6 km (90.5 miles), by 13 members of the Aldington Prison Officers Social Club, Kent, UK, from 28 to 29 May 1983.

⊙ LONGEST TIME BALANCED ON FOOT
Arulanantham Suresh Joachim (Sri Lanka) balanced on one foot for a record 76 hr 40 min at Uihara Maha Devi Park Open Air Stadium, Sri Lanka, from 22 to 25 May 1997.



⊙ LONGEST TIME SPENT IN AN ATTIC
Stephan Kovaltchuk spent 57 years in his attic in Montchintsi, Ukraine, before emerging at the age of 75 in Sept 1999 because his sister, who had looked after him, had died. Having originally gone into hiding from the Nazis, who occupied Ukraine in 1942, he remained in isolation to avoid conscription by the Russians after the Red Army's victory over the Germans.

LONGEST BATH TUB PUSH
The greatest distance covered in 24 hours while pushing a wheeled bath tub with a passenger inside is 513.32 km (318.97 miles), by a team of 25 people from the Tea Tree Gully Baptist Church, NSW, Australia, between 11 and 12 March 1995.

⊙ LONGEST NON-STOP OCEAN SWIM BY A WOMAN

In 1998 Susie Maroney (Australia) became the first person to swim from Mexico to Cuba, also setting the record for the greatest distance swum without flippers in open sea. She swam 197 km (122 miles) from Isla Mujeres, Mexico, to Cabo San Antonio, Cuba, in 38 hr 33 min, arriving on 1 June 1998.

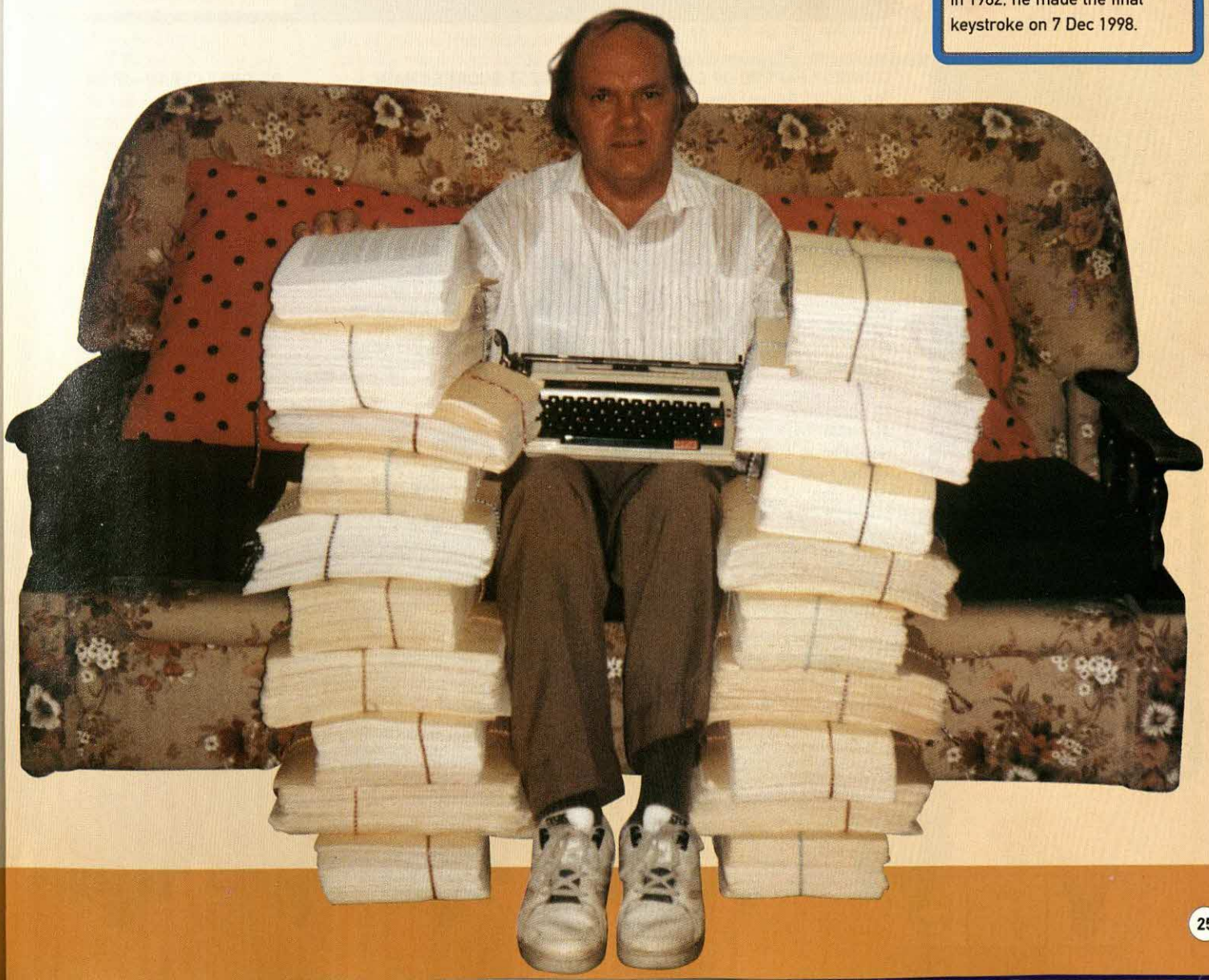
LONGEST BARREL ROLL
In 24 hours from 28 to 29 Nov 1998 a team of 10 people from Groningen, Netherlands, rolled a 63.5-kg (140-lb) barrel a distance of 263.9 km (164.1 miles) at Stadspark, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

LONGEST KITE FLIGHT
From 21 to 29 Aug 1982 a team from Edmonds Community College (USA), led by Harry Osborne, flew a kite for a record time of 180 hr 17 min at Long Beach, Washington State, USA.

LONGEST CAR PUSH
The greatest distance that a car has been pushed in 24 hours is 52.47 km (32.6 miles), by Sangion Daniele and Valente Giorgio (both Italy) in Venice, Italy, from 17 to 18 Oct 1998. The car was a Fiat Uno 60.

↓ LONGEST TYPEWRITING MARATHON

Les Stewart of Mudjimba Beach, Queensland, Australia, spent 16 years typing the numbers 1 to 1,000,000 on 19,990 sheets of paper. Starting in 1982, he made the final keystroke on 7 Dec 1998.



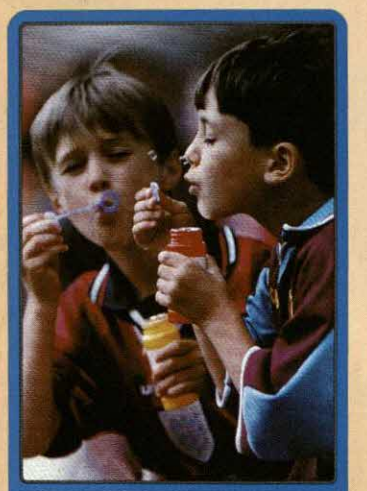
Teamwork 1

BIGGEST GAME OF PASS-THE-ORANGE
The biggest ever game of 'pass-the-orange' was played on the Granada TV programme *This Morning* (UK) on 25 March 1999. A record 92 people took part.

BIGGEST GAME OF MUSICAL CHAIRS
The biggest game of musical chairs on record was played at the Anglo-Chinese School, Singapore, on 5 Aug 1989. It started with 8,238 participants and ended with pupil Xu Chong Wei on the last chair.

BIGGEST 'RING-O'ROSES'
On 4 Aug 1999 1,296 people joined hands to enact the nursery rhyme 'Ring-A-Ring-O'Roses' at Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts, UK.

⊙ BIGGEST HUMAN LOGO
On 24 July 1999 a total of 34,309 people gathered at the National Stadium of Jamor, Lisbon, Portugal, to create the Portuguese Euro 2004 logo as part of the country's successful bid to host the football tournament. The event was organized by Realizar Eventos Especiais.



⊙ MOST PEOPLE BLOWING BUBBLES
On 16 May 1999, prior to a football match at West Ham United's Boleyn Ground, London, UK, a total of 23,680 people blew bubbles for one minute. West Ham's anthem is 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles'.

LONGEST PAPERCLIP CHAIN
The world's longest ever paperclip chain had a length of 31.57 km (19.62 miles). It was made in 24 hours by 60 people in an event organized jointly by Wall's Ice Cream and the Care Community Services Society, and was displayed in the atrium of Plaza Singapura, Singapore, on 3 April 1999.

LONGEST PAPER CHAIN
A paper chain with a length of 83.36 km (51.8 miles), consisting of 584,000 links, was made in 24 hours by 60 people at Alvin Community College, Alvin, Texas, USA, on 23 Oct 1998.

LONGEST DAISY CHAIN
The world's longest ever daisy chain was 2.12 km (1.32 miles) in length. It was made in seven hours by a team of 16 villagers from Good Easter, near Chelmsford, Essex, UK, on 27 May 1985.

LONGEST BUCKET CHAIN
On 5 Aug 1997 a total of 6,569 boys representing Boy Scouts of America made a fire service bucket chain that stretched for a record 4.18 km (2.6 miles) at the National Scout Jamboree, Fort AP Hills, Virginia, USA. The scouts started with 530 litres (140 gal) of water and ended with 477 litres (126 gal).

BIGGEST CLEAN-UP OF LITTER
The greatest number of volunteers involved in collecting litter in one location in one day is 50,405. The clean-up took place along the coastline of California, USA, on 2 Oct 1993.

MOST TREES PLANTED IN A DAY
On 18 May 1999 a total of 34,083 year-old native white spruce seedlings were planted in the Blackfoot Provincial

Recreation Area, Alberta, Canada. The record was set by 293 members of staff, students and parents from Fultonvale Elementary and Junior High School, Alberta.

MOST KISSING COUPLES
The greatest number of couples to have kissed in the same location at the same time is 1,588, at the Sarnia Sports and Entertainment Centre, Ontario, Canada, on 13 Feb 1999.

BIGGEST HUMAN CENTIPEDE
The biggest human centipede to have moved 30 m (98 ft 5 in), with its members' ankles tied firmly together and without falling over, comprised 1,719 students and volunteers from the Sixth Form College, Colchester, Essex, UK. They set the record on 20 Nov 1997.

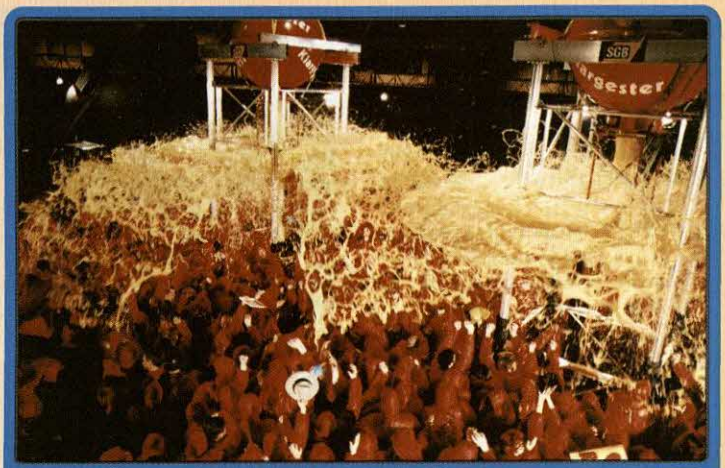
BIGGEST HUMAN CONVEYOR BELT
The world's largest human conveyor belt was formed on 7 Sept 1998 by 1,000 students from the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. The 'belt' carried a surfboard along its entire length.

BIGGEST HUMAN RAINBOW
On 9 Nov 1997 a record 6,444 people, each of them wearing a hat and a T-shirt in one of the colours of the rainbow, formed a 'human rainbow' at Transco Tower Park, Houston, Texas, USA.

BIGGEST FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE
On 7 Nov 1998 a total of 6,244 girl scouts and their guests linked hands, crossing their right arm over their left, made a wish and sang a song for 9 min 3.9 sec at Six Flags AstroWorld, Houston, Texas, USA.

BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING
On 4 Oct 1996 a record 513,659 people attended 14,652 coffee mornings held simultaneously throughout the UK as part of Macmillan Cancer Relief's Macmillan Appeal. The event raised a total sum of £18 million ($28.46 million) for the charity.

BIGGEST EASTER EGG HUNT
The world's largest ever Easter egg hunt took place on 20 March 1999, during the Vision Australia Foundation's annual Easter Fair at Kooyong, Victoria, Australia. A total of 150,000 solid chocolate eggs were found by 3,000 volunteers.



⊙ MOST PEOPLE GUNGED
On 12 March 1999 two tanks, each containing 840 litres (184 gal) of gunge, were emptied over 731 people at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, UK, to raise money for the charity Comic Relief.

BIGGEST BUNNY HOP
On 28 March 1999 a record total of 1,241 participants put on bunny ears, formed a continuous line and hopped along like rabbits for the required five minutes. The record was set at Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida, USA.

↓ BIGGEST MOTORCYCLE PYRAMID
The world's biggest motorcycle pyramid was formed by Shwet Ashwas, the Motorcycle Display Team of the Corps of Military Police, India, on 15 Oct 1999. It consisted of 151 men riding for 215 m (235 yd) on 11 motorcycles.

Teamwork 2

BIGGEST TAP DANCE
A record 6,776 tap dancers performed a two-minute routine to the tune of 'Puttin' On The Ritz' outside Macy's department store, New York City, USA, on 17 Aug 1997.

LONGEST TAP DANCE
On 11 July 1994 Rosie Radiator led an ensemble of 12 tap dancers through the streets of San Francisco, California, USA, in a choreographed routine. The group covered a total distance of 15.47 km (9.61 miles).

BIGGEST 'YMCA' DANCE
On 1 Nov 1997 a record 6,907 students from Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri, USA, danced to the song 'YMCA' for five minutes while it was being performed live by the group Village People at the University's Plaster Stadium.

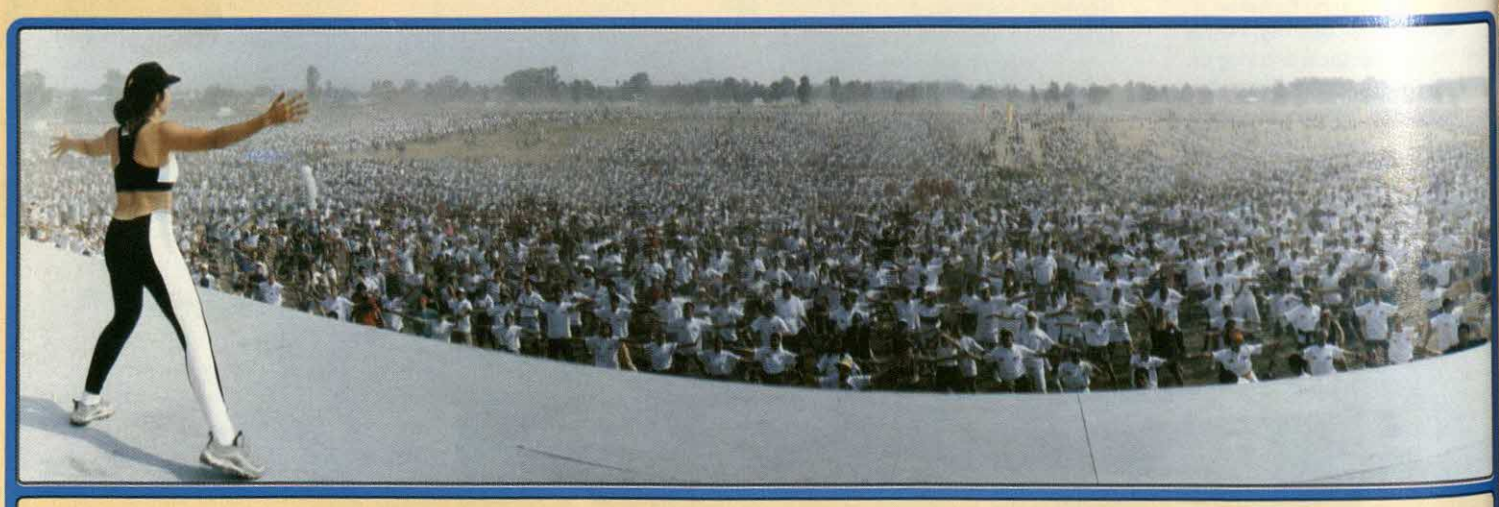
BIGGEST CHICKEN DANCE
An estimated 72,000 people took part in a Chicken Dance staged during the Canfield Fair, Canfield, Ohio, USA, on 1 Sept 1996.

⊙ BIGGEST HUG
On 18 Dec 1998 a total of 462 people, comprising students, teachers, parents and guests of Brock Corydon School, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, took part in the world's biggest hug. The event was staged as part of a citizenship programme being run at the school, and aimed to teach the children respect and tolerance for other people.

BIGGEST COUNTRY LINE DANCE
On 29 Jan 2000 a total of 6,275 people took part in a country line dance in Tamworth, NSW, Australia. They danced to Brooks and Dunns' extended play version of 'Bootscooting Boogie', which lasts for 6 min 28 sec.

BIGGEST SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE
The largest genuine Scottish country dance on record was a 512-some reel staged in Toronto, Canada, on 17 Aug 1991. The reel was organized by the Toronto branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

LONGEST CONGA
The world's longest conga was the Miami Super Conga, which was formed on 13 March 1988 and consisted of 119,986 people. The record was set in conjunction with *Calle Ocho*, a Cuban-American celebration of life in Miami, Florida, USA.



⊙ BIGGEST AEROBICS DISPLAY
The world's largest ever aerobics display was Capital Aeróbica, which was organized by the University of Guadalajara, Mexico, and took place at Metropolitan Park, Mexico, on 6 June 1998. A record 38,633 people took part.

MOST HEADS SHAVED IN 24 HOURS
In 24 hours from 16 to 17 April 1999, a record 1,786 people had their heads shaved at various locations across Australia in an event staged in support of the Leukaemia Foundation of Australia. A total of $571,738 (£387,356) was raised.

BIGGEST CUSTARD PIE FIGHT
On 11 April 2000 a total of 20 people threw 3,312 custard pies in three minutes at the Millennium Dome, London, UK.

MOST TEETH CLEANED SIMULTANEOUSLY
On 19 April 1999 a total of 1,365 people participated in the Healthy Smiles Partnership Brush-off in Phoenix, Arizona, USA, by brushing their teeth simultaneously for 3 min 3 sec.

MOST BABIES BREASTFED SIMULTANEOUSLY
A total of 388 women breastfed their babies at the same time at the Greater Union Megaplex Marion Cinema, Adelaide, South Australia, on 5 Aug 1999. The record was set as part of Breastfest '99: The Great Challenge, organized by the South Australian College of Lactation Consultants.

MOST PEOPLE HAND-SIGNING SIMULTANEOUSLY
On 8 May 1999 a record 1,336 primary school students and their teachers took part in the world's largest hand-signing session at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, USA. They signed 'America the Beautiful'.

MOST SHOES SHINED
The greatest number of shoes shined 'on the hoof' by four people in eight hours is 14,975, by members of the London Church of Christ at Leicester Square, London, UK, on 15 June 1996.

LOUDEST SCREAM BY A CROWD
A scream registering a record 126.3 decibels was measured by Trevor Lewis of CEL Instruments at The Party in the Park pop concert, Hyde Park, London, UK, on 5 July 1998. The concert featured stars such as Robbie Williams, Boyzone and All Saints.

LOUDEST APPLAUSE
An audience at the BBC's *Big Bash* event, held between 24 and 27 Oct 1997 at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, UK, registered applause of 100 decibels. They were not allowed to add to the noise level by stamping their feet or screaming.

BIGGEST GATHERING OF TWINS
On 12 Nov 1999 a record 3,961 pairs of twins gathered at Taipei City Hall, Taiwan.

BIGGEST FAMILY REUNION
On 28 June 1998 a total of 2,369 members of the Busse family attended a reunion at Grayslake, Illinois, USA. The gathering celebrated the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Friedrich and Johanna Busse, the designated founders of the family, in the USA.

FASTEST BARE-HANDED HOUSE DEMOLITION
On 11 May 1996 a total of 15 members of the Aurora Karate Dojo demolished a 10-room house in Saskatchewan, Canada, using their bare hands, in 3 hr 6 min 50 sec.

↓ LONGEST DANCING DRAGON
On 19 Feb 2000 a 3,048-m-long (3,333-yd) Chinese dancing dragon was brought to life by 3,200 people at the Great Wall of China, near Beijing. The record was set to celebrate the Chinese Year of the Dragon.

Adventures & Journeys 1

FASTEST CIRCUMNAVIGATION
The fastest round-the-world flight made under Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) rules, which define circumnavigations as flights that exceed the length of the tropics of Cancer or Capricorn (36,787.6 km, or 22,859.4 miles), is 31 hr 27 min 49 sec. Captains Michel Dupont and Claude Hetru (both France) flew an Air France Concorde from JFK Airport, New York City, USA, eastbound via France, United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Guam, Hawaii and Mexico from 15 to 16 Aug 1995. There were 80 passengers and 18 crew on board.

FASTEST CIRCUMNAVIGATIONS USING SCHEDULED FLIGHTS
The fastest circumnavigation made using scheduled flights is 44 hr 6 min, by David Springbett of Taplow, Bucks, UK. He travelled 37,124 km (23,069 miles) from 8 to 10 Jan 1980, journeying eastbound from Los Angeles, California, USA, via London, Bahrain, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Japan and Hawaii. David Springbett and Brother Michael Bartlett (UK) made a circumnavigation on scheduled flights, taking in antipodal points, in 62 hr 15 min between 18 and 21 March 2000. They covered a total distance of 41,010 km (25,484 miles), travelling eastbound from London, UK, via Korea, New Zealand (Auckland, Palmerston North, Ti Tree Point, Palmerston North and Auckland), the USA (Los Angeles, California, and Chicago, Illinois) and Spain.

FASTEST CIRCUMNAVIGATIONS BY HELICOPTER
Ron Bower and John Williams (both USA) circumnavigated the world in a Bell 430 helicopter in 17 days 6 hr 14 min 25 sec between 17 Aug and 3 Sept 1996. They flew westbound from Fair Oaks, Chobham, Surrey, UK, and achieved an average speed of 91.76 km/h (57.02 mph).

The record for the first and fastest helicopter circumnavigation by a woman is held by Jennifer Murray (UK), who, along with co-pilot Quentin Smith (also UK), flew a Robinson R44 Astro a distance of 57,448.7 km (35,698 miles) from 10 May to 8 Aug 1997. The pair travelled eastbound from Denham, Bucks, UK, achieving an average speed of 22.44 km/h (13.94 mph).

⊙ LONGEST LAWNMOWER RIDE
Brad Hauter from Lake in the Hills, Illinois, USA, rode a lawnmower a record distance of 6,500 km (4,039 miles) in 51 days, travelling through 16 US states. He began his journey on 7 April 1999 in Atlanta, Georgia, and, despite having fractured his arm, finished at Santa Monica, California, on 29 May 1999.

⊙ MOST POLAR ADVENTURES IN A DAY
Ivan André Trifonov (Austria) has been under, on and over the North Pole in the space of just one day. On 27 April 1999 he dived 13 m (42.7 ft) under the pole, stood upon it, and then flew over it for 35 km (21.8 miles) in an OE KZT balloon, at an altitude of 1,500 m (4,921 ft). The record was set as part of a 16-nation expedition to the North Pole.

FIRST BALLOON CIRCUMNAVIGATION
On 20 March 1999 Brian Jones (UK) and Bertrand Piccard (Switzerland) became the first ever balloonists to circle the world non-stop when they crossed the 'finishing line' of 9.27°, over Mauritania, north Africa, in the *Breitling Orbiter 3*. Their 42,810-km (26,602-mile) journey, which started in Chateau d'Oex, Switzerland, on 1 March 1999, took 19 days 1 hr 49 min.

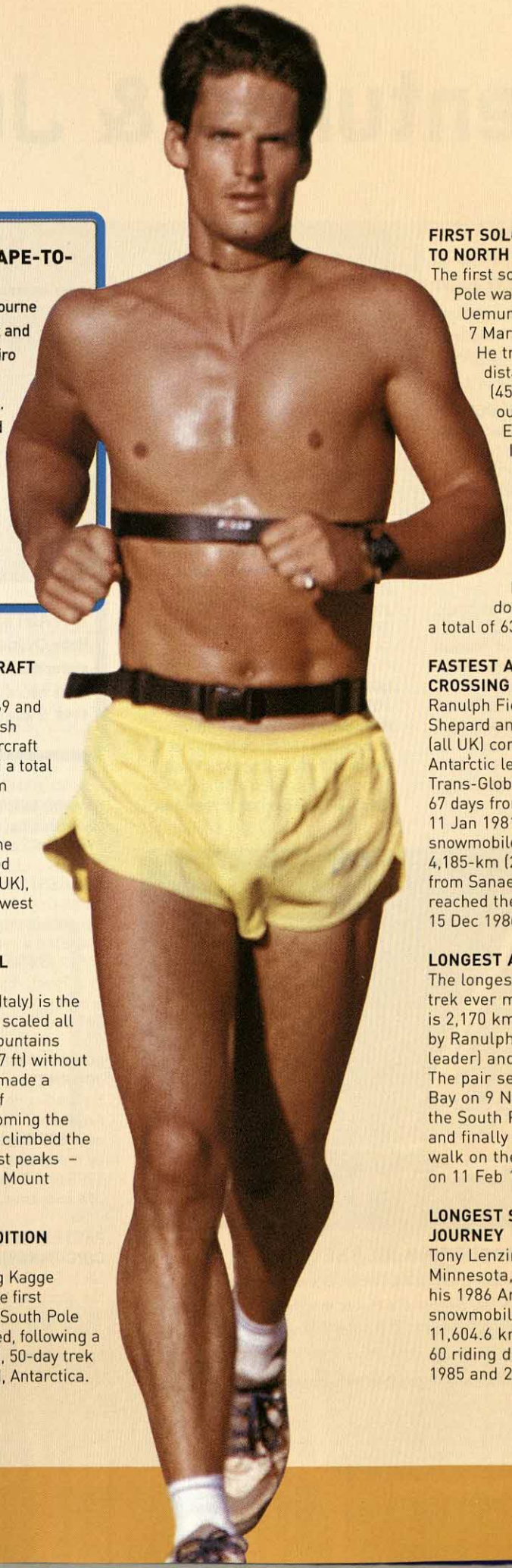
FASTEST MICROLIGHT CIRCUMNAVIGATION
On 21 July 1998 Brian Milton (UK) landed at Brooklands Airfield, Surrey, UK, after circumnavigating the world in a microlight. The trip took 121 days, with Milton flying eastbound via western Europe, Turkey, the Middle East, India, southeast Asia, Hong Kong, Japan, Russia, North America, Greenland and Iceland. He made a total of seven emergency landings on the journey, all of them in Saudi Arabia.

FASTEST CIRCUMNAVIGATION IN A POWER VESSEL
In 1998 the *Cable & Wireless Adventurer* circumnavigated the world in 74 days 20 hr 58 min 30 sec. The 35.05-m-long (115-ft) boat travelled more than 41,840 km (26,000 miles), breaking the 38-year-old record set by *USS Triton*, a submarine that circumnavigated the globe in 83 days 9 hr 54 min.

FASTEST TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT
The transatlantic flight record is 1 hr 54 min 56.4 sec, set by Majors James Sullivan and Noel Widdifield (both USA) in a Lockheed SR-71A Blackbird on 1 Sept 1974. Their average speed on the 5,570.80-km (3,461.63-mile) journey between New York City, USA, and London, UK, was 2,908.02 km/h (1,807 mph).

FASTEST PACIFIC CROSSING
In 1973 the 51,123-tonne (50,315-ton) container ship *Sea-Land Commerce* crossed the Pacific from Yokohama, Japan, to Long Beach, California, USA, in 6 days 1 hr 27 min, covering a distance of 4,840 nautical miles (8,964 km, or 5,570 miles). The ship travelled at an average speed of 33.27 knots (61.55 km/h, or 38.26 mph).

⊙ FASTEST CAPE-TO-CAIRO RUN
In 1998 Nicholas Bourne (UK) made the first and fastest Cape-to-Cairo run, leaving Cape Town, South Africa, on 21 Jan 1998 and arriving in Cairo, Egypt, on 5 Dec 1998. He covered a total distance of over 12,000 km (7,500 miles).



LONGEST HOVERCRAFT JOURNEY
Between 15 Oct 1969 and 3 Jan 1970 the British Trans-African Hovercraft Expedition travelled a total distance of 8,000 km (4,971 miles) in a Winchester class SRN6 hovercraft. The group, which was led by David Smithers (UK), went through eight west African countries.

MOST SUCCESSFUL MOUNTAINEER
Reinhold Messner (Italy) is the first person to have scaled all 14 of the world's mountains over 8,000 m (26,247 ft) without oxygen. In 1982 he made a successful ascent of Kanchenjunga, becoming the first person to have climbed the world's three highest peaks – the other two being Mount Everest and K2.

FIRST SOLO EXPEDITION TO SOUTH POLE
On 7 Jan 1993 Erling Kagge (Norway) became the first person to reach the South Pole solo and unsupported, following a 1,400-km (870-mile), 50-day trek from Berkner Island, Antarctica.

FIRST SOLO EXPEDITIONS TO NORTH POLE
The first solo trek to the North Pole was made by Naomi Uemura (Japan) between 7 March and 1 May 1978. He travelled a total distance of 725 km (450 miles), having set out from from Cape Edward, Ellesmere Island, Canada.

On 11 May 1986 Dr Jean-Louis Etienne (France) became the first person to reach the North Pole solo without dogs. His trek took a total of 63 days.

FASTEST ANTARCTIC CROSSING
Ranulph Fiennes, Oliver Shepard and Charles Burton (all UK) completed the Trans-Antarctic leg of the 1980–82 Trans-Globe Expedition in 67 days from 28 Oct 1980 to 11 Jan 1981. They used snowmobiles to make the 4,185-km (2,600-mile) journey from Sanae to Scott Base, and reached the South Pole on 15 Dec 1980.

LONGEST ANTARCTIC TREK
The longest unsupported trek ever made in Antarctica is 2,170 km (1,348 miles), by Ranulph Fiennes (team-leader) and Mike Stroud. The pair set out from Gould Bay on 9 Nov 1992, reached the South Pole on 16 Jan 1993, and finally abandoned their walk on the Ross ice shelf on 11 Feb 1993.

LONGEST SNOWMOBILE JOURNEY
Tony Lenzini from Duluth, Minnesota, USA, drove his 1986 Arctic Cat Cougar snowmobile a distance of 11,604.6 km (7,211 miles) in 60 riding days between 28 Dec 1985 and 20 March 1986.

Adventures & Journeys 2

MOST TRAVELLED MAN
John Clouse from Evansville, Indiana, USA, has visited all of the sovereign countries and all but two of the non-sovereign or other territories that existed in early 1999. He began his travels 40 years ago.

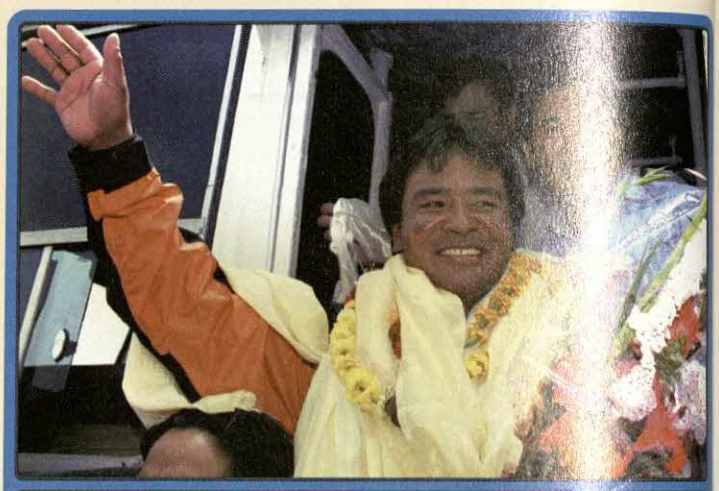
MOST TRAVELLED COUPLE
The world's most travelled couple are Robert and Carmen Becker of Pompano Beach, Florida, USA. They have both visited all of the sovereign countries and all but seven of the non-sovereign or other territories.

LONGEST WALKS
The greatest distance that has ever been walked is 53,351 km (33,152 miles), by Arthur Blessitt of North Fort Myers, Florida, USA. He began his travels on 25 Dec 1969 and has since visited 277 countries on all seven continents. He has carried a 3.7-m (12.1-ft) wooden cross with him throughout, preaching as he goes.

The first person reputed to have walked around the world was George Schilling (USA), who achieved this feat between Aug 1897 and 1904. The first verified round-the-world walk was made by David Kunst (USA), who travelled 23,250 km (14,450 miles) across four continents between 20 June 1970 and 5 Oct 1974.

The greatest distance walked by a woman is 30,321 km (18,841 miles), by Ffyona Campbell (UK), who trekked around the world in five phases, through four continents and 20 countries. She set off from John O' Groats, UK, on 16 Aug 1983 and returned there on 14 Oct 1994.

LONGEST WHEELCHAIR JOURNEY
Rick Hansen (Canada), who was paralysed from the waist down in 1973 following a road accident, travelled 40,075.16 km (24,902.23 miles) by wheelchair through four continents and 34 countries between 21 March 1985 and 22 May 1987.



⊙ FASTEST ASCENT OF MOUNT EVEREST
Babu Chhiri (Nepal, front of picture) reached the 8,848-m (29,029-ft) summit of Mount Everest in 16 hr 56 min on 21 May 2000. He took over three hours off the previous record, set by Kaji Sherpa (behind Chhiri) in 1998. It was the 10th time Chhiri had scaled the world's highest peak.

⊙ LONGEST WINDSURFING JOURNEY
In 1997 Steve Fisher (USA) crossed the Pacific Ocean from California, USA, to Hawaii, USA, on *Da Slipper II*, a highly modified 5.4-m-long (17.7-ft) windsurfer. The 4,203-km (2,612-mile) journey took him 47 days, and he arrived on Maui Beach, Hawaii, on 3 Sept 1997.

LONGEST CAR JOURNEY
Since Oct 1984, Emil and Liliana Schmid (Switzerland) have travelled a record distance of 509,674 km (316,195 miles) in a Toyota Landcruiser. Their journey has taken them through 127 countries.

LONGEST MOTORCYCLE JOURNEY
Emilio Scotto of Buenos Aires, Argentina, travelled a distance of over 735,000 km (456,720 miles) by motorbike between 17 Jan 1985 and 2 April 1995, visiting 214 countries.

FASTEST MOTORCYCLE CIRCUMNAVIGATION
Nick Sanders (UK) biked around the world in 31 days 20 hr from 18 April to 9 June 1997, covering a distance of 32,074 km (19,930 miles). He started and finished in Calais, France.

FASTEST CAR CIRCUMNAVIGATIONS
Garry Sowerby, Colin Bryant and Graham McGaw circumnavigated the world in a Vauxhall Frontera in 21 days 2 hr 14 min between 1 Oct and 11 Dec 1997. They travelled a total distance of 29,522 km (18,345 miles), starting and finishing in Greenwich, London, UK.

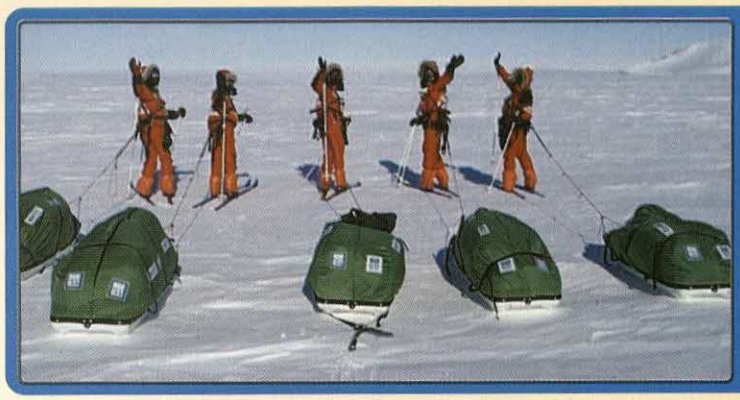
The record for the first and fastest circumnavigation of the world by car, made under the rules applicable in 1989 and 1991, embracing more than an equator's length of driving (40,750 km, or 24,901.41 road miles), is held by Mohammed Salahuddin Choudhury and his wife Neena of Calcutta, India. Their journey took 69 days 19 hr 5 min from 9 Sept to 17 Nov 1989. The Choudhurys drove a Hindustan 'Contessa Classic' 1989 car, starting and finishing in New Delhi, India.

LONGEST CYCLE JOURNEYS
Walter Stolle (Germany) cycled a distance of more than 646,960 km (402,000 miles) between 24 Jan 1959 and 12 Dec 1976, visiting 159 countries.

Tal Burt (Israel) circumnavigated the world in 77 days 14 hr from 1 June to 17 Aug 1992. He travelled a total distance of 21,329 km (13,254 miles), starting and finishing in Paris, France.

The greatest distance covered on a tandem is 38,143 km (23,701 miles), by Phil and Louise Shambrook (NZ). They set out from Brigg, Lincs, UK, on 17 Dec 1994 and returned there on 1 Oct 1997.

GREATEST DISTANCE KITE SURFED
On 17 Sept 1999 Chris Calthrop, Jason Furness and Andy Preston, all representing the kite manufacturer Flexifoil International (UK), crossed the English Channel on kite surfers, custom-made boards attached to blade traction kites that have an area of 4.9 m² (52.7 ft²). They covered the 42.9 km (26.7 miles) from Hythe, UK, to Wissant, France, in times ranging from 2 hr 30 min to 3 hr.



⊙ FIRST FEMALE TEAM TO REACH BOTH POLES
Caroline Hamilton, Ann Daniels, Pom Oliver, Rosie Stancer and Zoe Hudson (all UK) completed a trek to the South Pole on 24 Jan 2000, having reached the North Pole in 1997. They were raising funds for the charity Special Olympics, UK.

FASTEST TRANS-AMERICA SKATEBOARD CROSSINGS
Jack Smith (USA) skateboarded across the USA twice: in 1976 and 1984. The first trip, which he made with two companions, took 32 days to complete, and the second trip, made with three other people, took 26 days.

MOST COUNTRIES TRAVELLED THROUGH BY TRAIN IN 24 HOURS
On 1–2 May 1993 Alison Bailey, Ian Bailey, John English and David Kellie travelled through a record 11 countries by train. They started their journey in Hungary and continued through Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, France, Luxembourg and Belgium before arriving in the Netherlands 22 hr 10 min after they set off.

LONGEST HORSE-DRAWN CARAVAN JOURNEY
The Grant family (UK) travelled more than 27,650 km (17,181 miles) during a round-the-world trip in a horse-drawn caravan. They began their journey in the Netherlands on 25 Oct 1990 and ended it in the UK in early 1998.

→ FASTEST SOLAR-POWERED PACIFIC CROSSING
In 1996 Kenichi Horie (Japan) made the fastest ever crossing of the Pacific in a solar-powered boat when he travelled 16,000 km (10,000 miles) from Salinas, Ecuador, to Tokyo, Japan, in 148 days.

Disasters

WORST TRAIN DISASTER
Over 800 people died when the train they were travelling on plunged off a bridge into the Bagmati River at Samastipur, Bihar, India, on 6 June 1981. Some reports put the death toll as high as 900.

WORST UNDERGROUND TRAIN DISASTER
Approximately 300 people were killed, and at least 250 injured, when their underground train caught fire in a tunnel between two stations in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 28 Oct 1995.

WORST FERRY DISASTER
In the early hours of 21 Dec 1987, the ferry *Doña Paz*, which was sailing from Tacloban to Manila, Philippines, collided with the tanker *Vector*. Both vessels sank within minutes. The *Doña Paz* was officially carrying 1,550 passengers, but overcrowding is common in the region and it may actually have held as many as 4,000.

WORST EXPLOSION ON BOARD A SHIP
On 17 Dec 1917 the French freighter *Mont Blanc*, which was packed with 5,080 tonnes (5,000 tons) of explosives and combustibles, collided with the Belgian *Imo* in Halifax Harbour, Nova Scotia, Canada. The resulting blast killed a total of 1,635 people, and could be felt more than 95 km (59 miles) away.

WORST YACHT RACING DISASTER
During the 28th Fastnet Race, held between 13 and 15 Aug 1979, a total of 19 people died when 23 yachts sank or were abandoned in a Force 11 gale.

WORST SUBMARINE DISASTER
On 30 Jan 1945 a total of 7,700 people were killed when the 25,893-tonne (25,484-ton) German liner *Wilhelm Gustloff* was torpedoed by a Soviet S-13 submarine off Danzig (now Gdansk), Poland.

⊙ WORST LIFT ACCIDENT
A total of 105 people were killed when a lift operating at the Vaal Reefs gold mine, South Africa, fell 490 m (1,608 ft) on 11 May 1995.

WORST ROAD TUNNEL DISASTER
Approximately 176 people died when a petrol tanker exploded inside the Salang Tunnel, Afghanistan, on 3 Nov 1982.

WORST AIR DISASTER
The world's worst ever air disaster took place on 27 March 1977, when two Boeing 747s, operated by Pan-Am and KLM, collided on the runway at Los Rodeos Airport, Tenerife, Canary Islands. A total of 583 people were killed.

WORST MID-AIR COLLISION
On 12 Nov 1996 a total of 351 people died when a Saudi Boeing 747 scheduled flight collided with a Kazakh Illushin 76 charter flight 80 km (50 miles) southwest of New Delhi, India.

WORST HELICOPTER DISASTER
A Russian military helicopter carrying 61 refugees was shot down near Lata, Georgia, on 14 Dec 1992. Everyone on board was killed.

WORST BALLOONING DISASTER
The hot-air balloon accident that has resulted in the greatest loss of life took place on 13 Aug 1989, when two passenger balloons, launched a few minutes apart for a sightseeing flight over Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia, collided at a height of 610 m (2,000 ft). The basket of one of the balloons tore a hole in the fabric of the other, which then collapsed, sending the pilot and 12 passengers to their deaths.

WORST SKI LIFT DISASTER
The world's worst ever ski lift accident occurred in the resort of Cavalese, Italy, on 9 March 1976. A total of 42 people died when a lift cable ruptured and the lift tumbled to the valley floor.

⊙ WORST SPACE DISASTER
On 28 Jan 1986 all seven people on board *Challenger 51L* were killed when the craft exploded 73 seconds after lift-off from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, USA.

WORST MOUNTAINEERING DISASTER
On 13 July 1990 a total of 43 climbers were killed in a massive snow and ice avalanche on the slopes of Peak Lenin, on the border between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (formerly USSR). Only two members of the group survived.

WORST FIRE DISASTER
During the sack of Moscow, Russia, in May 1571, approximately 200,000 people were reported to have perished as a result of fires started by invading Tartars.

WORST SINGLE-AIRCRAFT DISASTER
A total of 520 people were killed when a JAL Boeing 747 flight 123, crashed between Tokyo and Osaka, Japan, on 12 Aug 1985.

WORST THEATRE FIRE DISASTER
A total of 1,670 people were killed in a fire at The Theatre, Guangzhou, China, in May 1845.

WORST CIRCUS FIRE DISASTER
A total of 168 people died in a fire which broke out during a circus performance in Hartford, Connecticut, USA, on 6 July 1944.

WORST FIREWORK DISASTER
In May 1770 approximately 800 people died in an accident that took place during a fireworks display held beside the River Seine in Paris, France.

WORST SPORTING DISASTERS
An estimated 604 people were killed when the stands at the Hong Kong Jockey Club racecourse, Hong Kong, collapsed and caught fire on 26 Feb 1918.

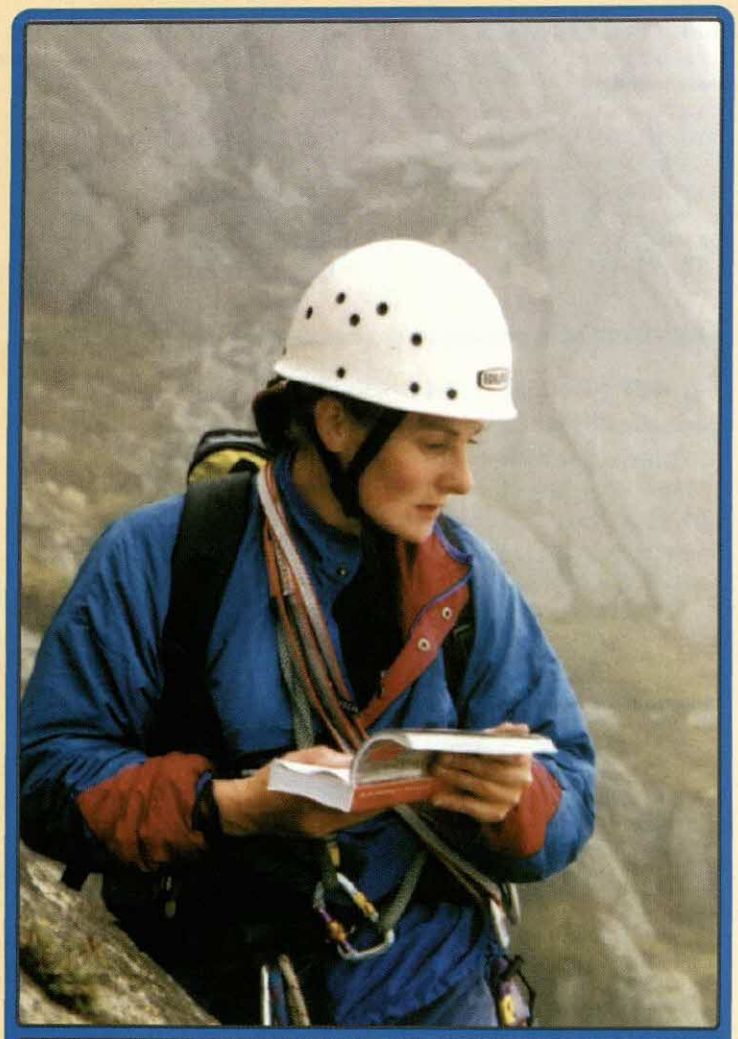
A total of 1,112 spectators were killed when the upper tiers of the Circus Maximus, Rome, Italy, collapsed during a gladiatorial combat held during the reign of Antoninus Pius (138–161 AD).

BIGGEST MASS SUICIDE
In 73 AD approximately 960 Jewish Zealots committed mass suicide by cutting one another's throats at the fortified palace of Masada, Israel, as it was being besieged by the Romans. The incident was recorded by the historian Flavius Josephus (c 37–100 AD).

WORST DAM DISASTER
In Aug 1975 the Banqiao and Shimantan Dams burst almost simultaneously, flooding Henan Province, China, and causing the deaths of approximately 230,000 people. The disaster was caused by a combination of geological problems and structural weaknesses.

↓ WORST JOSS STICK DISASTER
On 2 Nov 1998 five Buddhist worshippers were killed when three giant ceremonial joss sticks collapsed at the Phra Pathom Jedi Temple, 58 km (36 miles) northwest of Bangkok, Thailand. The 24–27-m (79–89-ft) joss sticks had been built in April 1998 to commemorate the 84th anniversary of the construction of an image of Buddha at the temple. Although the cause of the accident is unclear, the joss sticks could have collapsed under their own weight as they had soaked up a substantial amount of rain.

Survivors & Lifesavers



⊙ LONGEST MOUNTAIN FALL SURVIVED
In Jan 2000 Flight Lieutenant Jeanine Godfrey, an officer with the British Royal Air Force, fell 396 m (1,299 ft) down a Scottish mountain, landing on snow-covered rocks. She sustained severe head and spinal injuries, but is expected to make a full recovery.

LONGEST FALL SURVIVED BY AN INFANT
In Nov 1997 an 18-month-old baby named Alejandro survived a fall of 20 m (65 ft 7 in) from the seventh-floor kitchen window of his parents' flat in Murcia, Spain. His only injuries were a broken tooth, a split lip and bruising.

LONGEST LIFT SHAFT FALL SURVIVED
In May 1998 Stuart Jones (New Zealand) survived a 70-m (230-ft) fall down a lift shaft. He fell while carrying out structural work on the roof of a temporary lift car at the Midland Park Building, Wellington, New Zealand.

LONGEST LIFT FALL SURVIVED
On 25 Jan 2000 US office workers Shameka Peterson and Joe Mascora fell 40 floors (121 m, or 397 ft) in four seconds in a lift at the Empire State Building, New York City, USA. The lift stopped just four floors from the ground, thanks to its safety mechanism, and Peterson and Mascora escaped with minor bruising.

LONGEST TIME TRAPPED IN A LIFT
Kiveli Papaioannou (Cyprus), then aged 76, was trapped in the lift of her apartment block for six days from 28 Dec 1997 to 2 Jan 1998. She survived by rationing the fruit, vegetables and bread that were in her shopping bag.

LONGEST FALL SURVIVED WITHOUT A PARACHUTE
Vesna Vulovic, a flight attendant from Yugoslavia, survived a fall from a height of 10,160 m (33,333 ft) when the DC-9 in which she was travelling blew up over Srbskà Kamenice, Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic), on 26 Jan 1972. The other 27 passengers on board the plane were killed.

HIGHEST PARACHUTE ESCAPE
Flight Lieutenant J de Salis and Flying Officer P Lowe (both UK) escaped at an altitude of 17,100 m (56,102 ft) over Derby, UK, on 9 April 1958.

LOWEST PARACHUTE ESCAPE
Squadron Leader Terence Spencer (UK) made the lowest ever parachute escape, at 9–12 m (30–39 ft) over Wismar Bay, Germany, on 19 April 1945.

HIGHEST-SPEED MOTORCYCLE CRASH SURVIVED
During time-trials at El Mirage Dry Lake, California, USA, on 12 July 1998, Ron Cook (USA) survived a motorcycle crash that occurred while he was travelling at an estimated 322 km/h (200 mph).

YOUNGEST PERSON TO SURVIVE A CAR CRASH
On 25 Feb 1999 Virginia Rivero from Misiones, Argentina, went into labour at her home and walked to a nearby road in order to hitchhike to hospital. Offered a lift by two men, she then gave birth to a baby girl on the back seat of their car. When she told them she was about to have a second baby, the driver overtook the car in front, only to collide with a third vehicle. Virginia and her new born daughter were ejected through the back door of the car, suffering minor injuries, but Virginia was able to stand up and flag down another car, which took them to the hospital. Once there, she gave birth to a baby boy.

MOST LIGHTNING SURVIVORS
A record 38 people survived a lightning strike at Carvalia, North Carolina, USA, on 4 July 1995.

MOST LIGHTNING STRIKES SURVIVED
The only person to have survived seven lightning strikes is park ranger Roy Sullivan from Virginia, USA. He committed suicide in Sept 1983, reportedly after being rejected in love.

LONGEST TIME SURVIVED ADRIFT IN A FISHING BOAT
On 4 Jan 1999 *Yadira I*, a drifting Nicaraguan fishing boat with a crew of seven, was found by Norwegian oil tanker *Joelm* 800 km (497 miles) southwest of San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua. The boat had been lost at sea for 35 days after its engine stopped working.

MOST LABOUR CAMP ESCAPES
Tatyana Russanova, a former Soviet citizen now living in Israel, escaped from Stalinist labour camps in the former Soviet Union on 15 occasions between 1943 and 1954. She was recaptured and sentenced 14 times.

⊙ MOST SUCCESSFUL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

The Australian Royal Flying Doctor Service was set up in 1928. In 1998 the service's 53 doctors, 103 nurses and 95 pilots treated 181,621 patients, performed 21,604 aerial evacuations and flew a total of 13.35 million km (8.3 million miles).

BIGGEST PRESENT-DAY WAR HOSPITAL

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) hospital in Lopiding, Kenya, is the world's largest war hospital, with a capacity of 560 beds. Founded in 1997 with just 40 beds, it has treated around 17,000 victims of the long-running civil war in Sudan, fitting 1,500 patients with artificial limbs.

MOST PEOPLE RESCUED BY ONE DOG

Barry, a St Bernard, saved more than 40 people during his 12-year career in the Swiss Alps.

OLDEST LIFEGUARD

The world's oldest lifeguard is Stephen Dicheck of North Carolina, USA, who works at the Triangle Sportsplex in Hillsborough, North Carolina. Born on 13 Jan 1923, he has been a lifeguard since Nov 1995.

BIGGEST RESCUES

On 8 May 1942 a record 2,735 people were rescued from the aircraft carrier *USS Lexington* after it was sunk during the Battle of the Coral Sea.

All 2,689 people aboard the *Susan B Anthony* were rescued when the ship sank off the coast of Normandy, France, on 7 June 1944.

MOST LIVES SAVED BY A SEATBELT INNOVATION

The three-point safety belt, invented by Swedish engineer Nils Bohlin, was patented by Volvo in 1959. Inertia-roll technology was developed by the same company in 1968. The US National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration estimates that seatbelts have prevented 55,600 deaths and 1.3 million injuries in the last decade in the USA alone, saving $105 billion (£63.4 billion) in medical costs.

MOST ARTISTS SAVED

Varian Fry, 'The Artists' Schindler', journeyed from the USA to France in 1940 with a list of 200 prominent artists and intellectuals known to be in parts of Nazi-occupied Europe. He subsequently helped to save around 4,000 people from the Gestapo, including Max Ernst, Marc Chagall and André Breton.

⊙ LONGEST POST-EARTHQUAKE SURVIVAL BY A CAT

On 9 Dec 1999, 80 days after an earthquake struck Taiwan, killing an estimated 2,400 people, a cat was discovered alive in a collapsed building in Taichung, Taiwan. It was taken to a veterinary hospital, where it made a full recovery.

Space Heroes

FIRST WOMAN IN SPACE
Valentina Vladimirovna Tereshkova (USSR) was launched into Space aboard *Vostok 6* from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, on 16 June 1963. *Vostok 6* returned to Earth on 19 June 1963, having completed 48 orbits – a total distance of 1.971 million km (1.225 million miles) – in 2 days 22 hr 50 min.

FIRST PEOPLE ON THE MOON
On 21 July 1969 Neil Armstrong (USA), the command pilot of the *Apollo 11* mission, became the first person to set foot on the Moon. He was followed out of the lunar module *Eagle* by Buzz Aldrin (USA), while the command module *Columbia*, piloted by Michael Collins (USA), orbited above. *Eagle* landed on the Moon on 20 July and lifted off on 21 July after a stay of 21 hr 36 min.

GREATEST ALTITUDES ATTAINED
The crew of *Apollo 13* – Jim Lovell, Fred Haise and Jack Swigert, all USA – were a record distance of 400,171 km (248,661 miles) from the Earth's surface on 15 April 1970.

The greatest altitude ever attained by a woman is 611 km (380 miles), by Kathryn Thornton (USA) during the *STS-61 Endeavour* mission. She set this record on 10 Dec 1993, following an orbital engine burn.

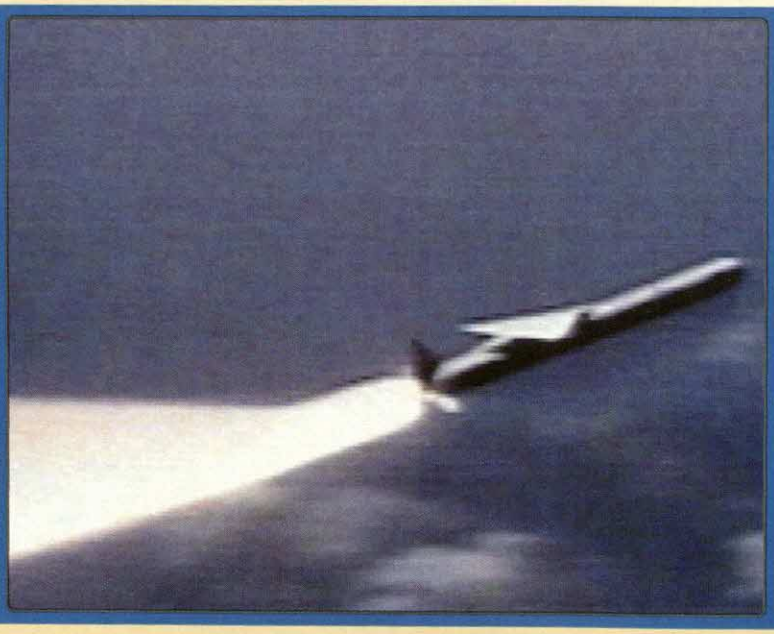
FASTEST SPEEDS ATTAINED
The record for the greatest speed at which a human being has ever travelled is 39,897 km/h (24,792 mph), or 11.08 km/sec (6.88 miles/sec), by the crew of the command module of *Apollo 10* (Thomas Stafford, Eugene Cernan and John Young, all USA) on the craft's trans-Earth return flight on 26 May 1969.

Kathryn Sullivan (USA) achieved a women's record speed of 28,582 km/h (17,761 mph) on 29 April 1990, at the start of re-entry at the end of the *STS-31 Discovery* shuttle mission. It is possible that this speed could have been exceeded by Kathryn Thornton on 10 Dec 1993, after an orbital engine burn during the *STS-61 Endeavour* mission.

⊙ MOST SPACE MISSIONS
Franklin Chang-Díaz (Costa Rica, above) has flown on a record six missions (1986–1998), as have Americans Story Musgrave (1983–1996), Shannon Lucid (1985–1996) and John Young (1965–1983).

LONGEST STAY ON THE MOON
During the *Apollo 17* mission, which lasted for 12 days 13 hr 51 min 59 sec from 7 to 19 Dec 1972, Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt (both USA) spent a total of 74 hr 59 min 40 sec on the Moon's surface.

LONGEST STAY IN ORBIT AROUND A CELESTIAL BODY
Ronald Evans (USA) orbited the Moon for 147 hr 41 min 13 sec during the *Apollo 17* mission. He stayed on board the mission's command module while Cernan and Schmitt explored the Moon.



⊙ FIRST SPACE FUNERAL
On 21 April 1997 the ashes of 24 Space pioneers and enthusiasts, including *Star Trek* creator Gene Roddenberry and counter-culture guru Timothy Leary, were sent into orbit on board Spain's *Pegasus* rocket at a cost of $4,920 (£3,000) each. Roddenberry is seen here with *Star Trek* actors William Shatner, DeForest Kelly and Leonard Nimoy (left to right).

FIRST SPACEWALKS
The first ever spacewalk was made on 18 March 1965, by Aleksey Leonov (USSR) of *Voskhod 2*.

The first woman to perform a spacewalk was Svetlana Savitskaya (USSR) from *Soyuz T12/Salyut 7*. She set the record on 25 July 1984.

LONGEST SPACEWALKS
On 13 May 1992 Pierre Thuot, Rick Hieb and Tom Akers (all USA) of *STS-49 Endeavour* made a spacewalk that lasted for a record 8 hr 29 min.

Kathryn Thornton of *STS-49 Endeavour* made a 7-hr 49-min spacewalk on 14 May 1992.

The longest spacewalk by Russian cosmonauts lasted for 7 hr 16 min. It was made by Anatoly Solovyov and Aleksandr Balandin of *Soyuz TM9* outside the *Mir* space station on 1 July 1990.

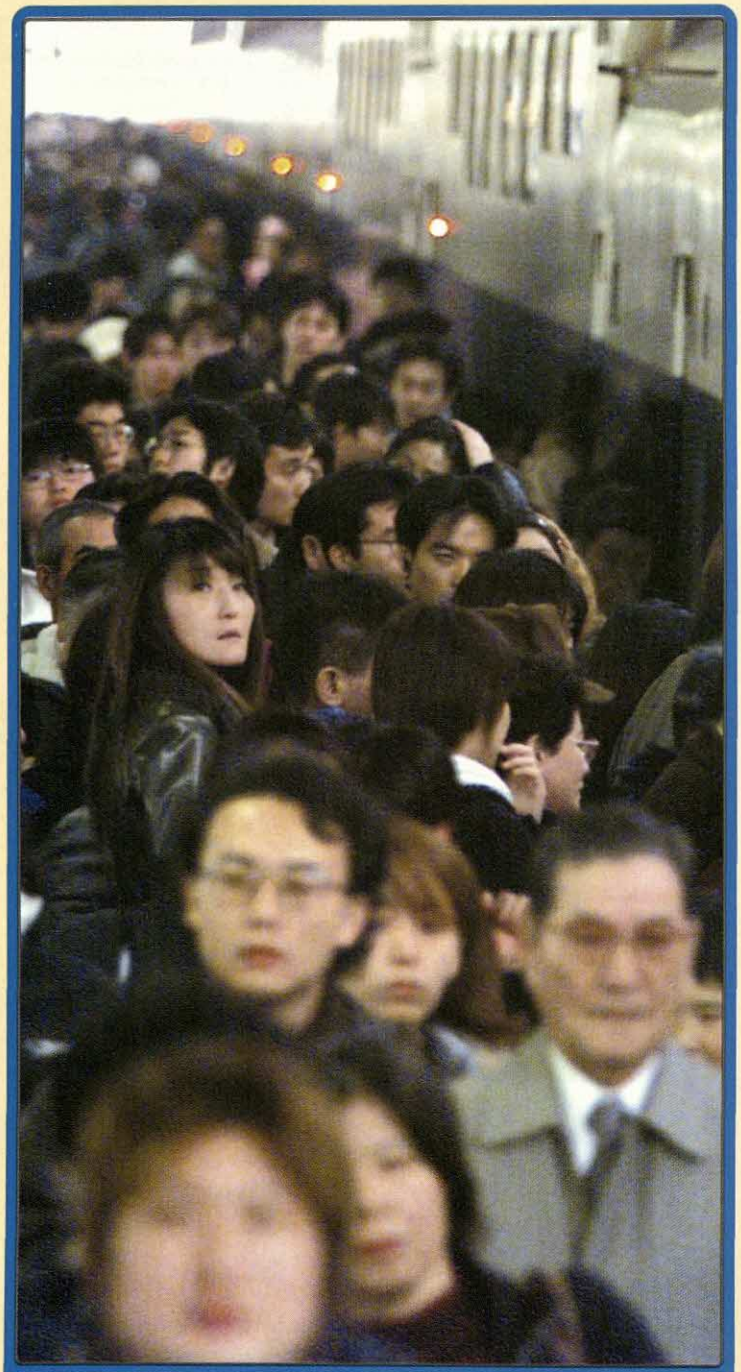
MOST SPACEWALKS
Aleksandr Serebrov (USSR) has made a record 10 spacewalks: five during the *Soyuz TM8* mission in 1990, and five during the *Soyuz TM17* mission in 1993.

FIRST UNTETHERED SPACEWALK
The first untethered spacewalk was made by Bruce McCandless (USA) of the space shuttle *Challenger* on 7 Feb 1984, at an altitude of 264 km (164 miles) above Hawaii, USA. He wore a $15-million (£11.2-million) back pack.

LONGEST SPACEFLIGHT BY A WOMAN
The longest spaceflight ever made by a woman lasted for 188 days 4 hr 14 sec. Shannon Lucid (USA) was launched to the *Mir* space station aboard the US space shuttle *STS -76 Atlantis* on 22 March 1996, and returned to Earth on 26 Sept 1996, on *STS-79 Atlantis*. She was awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honour by US president Bill Clinton for her achievement.

← MOST SHUTTLE-FLIGHT LANDINGS BY A WOMAN
Eileen Collins (USA) has made a record two shuttle-flight landings. In Feb 1995 she became the first woman to land a space shuttle as a pilot, on the *STS-63* mission; and in July 1999, on the *STS-93* mission, she became the first ever female shuttle commander.

Human World 1



⊙ MOST POPULOUS CITY
The most populous city in the world is Tokyo, Japan. According to the United Nations, it had an estimated population of 26.4 million in March 2000.

MOST POPULOUS COUNTRY
China is the world's most populous country, with an estimated population of 1.24 billion in 1998. Its annual rate of natural increase (births less deaths) is 1.3% per year, or 44,100 people a day. More people now live in China than inhabited the whole world 150 years ago.

LEAST POPULOUS COUNTRY
The sovereign state with the smallest population is Vatican City, which had an estimated 870 inhabitants in July 1999.

MOST DENSELY POPULATED COUNTRIES
In 1997 the Chinese special administrative region of Macau, which has a total area of 19.3 km² (7.5 miles²), had an estimated population of 421,000, giving it a population density of 21,813/km² (56,133/mile²).

The most densely populated country with an area of more than 2,500 km² (965 miles²) is Bangladesh. In 1997 it had a population of 125.3 million living in a 147,570-km² (56,977-mile²) area, giving it a population density of 849.4/km² (2,199.8/mile²).

The world's most densely populated island is Java, Indonesia, which in 1997 had a population of 118.7 million living in an area of 132,186 km² (51,037 miles²) – a population density of 898/km² (2,326/mile²).

MOST SPARSELY POPULATED COUNTRY
The most sparsely populated sovereign country is Mongolia. In 1997 it had a population of 2.37 million in an area of 1,566,500 km² (604,800 miles²), giving it a population density of 1.5/km² (3.9/mile²).

HIGHEST LIFE EXPECTANCY
According to the results of a 1998 World Bank census, the country with the highest life expectancy is Japan, where life expectancy at birth is 83.9 years for women and 77.3 years for men.

LOWEST LIFE EXPECTANCY
In Sierra Leone, life expectancy at birth is 39.8 years for women and 35.9 years for men.

GREATEST DIFFERENCE IN LIFE EXPECTANCY
In 1995 life expectancy for males in the Russian Federation was 58.27 years, compared with a figure of 71.7 years for females – a record difference of 13.43 years.

BIGGEST SHORTAGE OF WOMEN
The country with the biggest recorded shortage of women is Qatar, where 67.2% of the population is male. Worldwide, there are estimated to be 1,015 males for every 1,000 females.

BIGGEST SHORTAGE OF MEN
The country with the largest recorded shortage of men is Ukraine, where 53.7% of the population is female.

HIGHEST BIRTH RATE
According to a United Nations estimate, Niger's birth rate was 54.5 births per 1,000 population in 1996.

LOWEST BIRTH RATE
Excluding Vatican City, where the rate is negligible, the world's lowest current birth rate is 6.5 births per 1,000 population, for Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1995-96.

HIGHEST DEATH RATES
The highest estimated current death rate is 25.1 deaths per 1,000 population, for Sierra Leone in 1995-96.

East Timor had a death rate of 45 deaths per 1,000 population between 1975 and 1980, although this figure subsided to 17.4 deaths per 1,000 population from 1990 to 1995.

⊙ MOST TELEPHONES PER CAPITA
Monaco is the country with the most telephones per capita, with 1,994 for every 1,000 people.

LOWEST DEATH RATE
The lowest estimated current death rate is 2.2 deaths per 1,000 population, for Kuwait in 1995–1996.

HIGHEST RATE OF NATURAL INCREASE
Between 1992 and 1997 Afghanistan's rate of natural increase was 7.4% per year.

HIGHEST MARRIAGE RATES
The marriage rate in the US Virgin Islands is 35.1 per 1,000 population.

The sovereign country with the highest marriage rate is The Maldives, with 19.7 marriages per 1,000 population.

HIGHEST DIVORCE RATE
There were just over 1.15 million divorces in the USA in 1997, giving it a divorce rate of 4.3 per 1,000 population. In 1998 a total of 9.8% of all US adults – 19.4 million people – were divorced.

HIGHEST SUICIDE RATE
The highest suicide rate on record is 47 per 100,000 population, for Sri Lanka in 1991.

LOWEST SUICIDE RATE
The lowest suicide rate ever recorded is 0.04 per 100,000 population, for Jordan in 1970, where just one case of suicide was reported.

MOST DOCTORS
The country with the greatest number of physicians is China, which had 1.918 million in 1995. This total includes dentists and those practising traditional Chinese medicine.

The country with the most doctors per capita is Monaco, where there is one doctor for every 169 people.

FEWEST DOCTORS
Malawi has the fewest doctors per capita, with one for every 49,118 people.

MOST NURSES
The country with the greatest number of nurses is the USA, which had 2.044 million in 1995.

HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT
In 1996 a total of 75% of the labour force in Bosnia-Herzegovina was unemployed.

LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT
In 1997 just 2.7% of Liechtenstein's work force was unemployed.

↓ MOST PHARMACISTS
The country with the greatest number of pharmacists is China, with 418,000 in 1995. The Chinese have relied on traditional herbal cures dispensed by pharmacists for over 2,000 years.

Human World 2

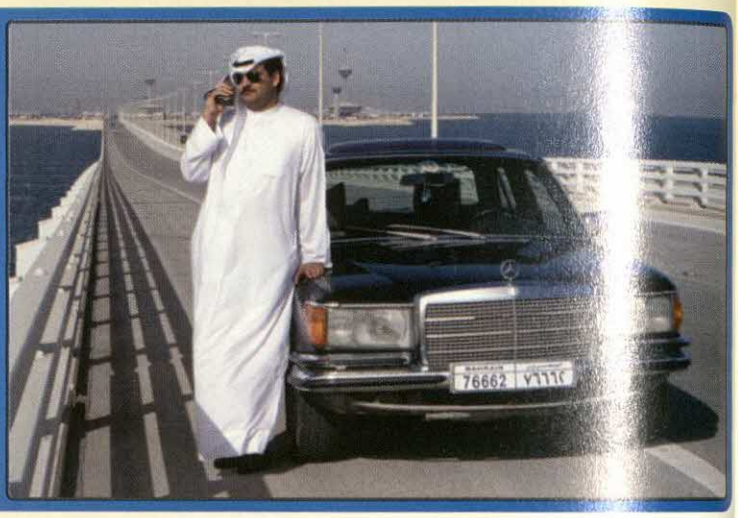
HIGHEST TAXATION
Denmark is the most taxed country in the world. Its highest rate of income tax is 68%, with the basic rate starting at 42%. As a result, the Danes enjoy some of the world's best health care and welfare benefits.

WORST INFLATION
The world's worst inflation occurred in Hungary in June 1946, when the 1931 gold pengó was valued at 130 million trillion paper pengós. Notes were issued for *Egymillárd billió* (1,000 trillion) pengós on 3 June and withdrawn on 11 July of the same year. Vouchers for 1 billion trillion pengós were issued for the payment of taxes only.

Zaire (now The Democratic Republic of Congo) experienced an inflation rate of 650% in 1996.

LOWEST INFLATION
In 1998, the last year for which comparable data is available, 11 countries experienced deflation: Barbados, Belize, the Central African Republic, China, The Maldives, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sweden, Syria and Uganda. Of these, the Central African Republic had the best figure, with deflation of just -1.89%.

⊙ LEAST TAXED COUNTRIES
The sovereign countries with the lowest income tax are Bahrain and Qatar, where the rate, regardless of income, is nil. Oil is the backbone of the economies of both nations, providing over half of all government revenues.



LOWEST HEALTH BUDGET
in 1996, the last year for which comparable figures are available, Somalia had the lowest health expenditure as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP). The Somali health budget was estimated to be 1.5% of GDP. However, as the government infrastructure of Somalia had collapsed, the figure is not really meaningful.

HIGHEST HEALTH BUDGET
The USA is the country with the highest health expenditure as a percentage of GDP. The US health budget was 12.7% of GDP in 1996, the last year for which comparable figures are available.

BIGGEST GOLD RESERVES
The US Treasury ha approximately 262 illion fine troy oz of gold duri 1996, equivalent to $100 ion (£65.6 billion) at the une 1996 price of $382 (£251 er fine oz. The US Bullion Dep itory at Fort Knox, 48 km (3 miles) southwest of Louis e, Kentucky, USA, wh 147 million fine troy oz currently stored, has been the rincipal

⊙ CHEAPEST CITIES
In the Economist Intelligence Unit's bi-annual survey, Indian cities New Delhi and Mumbai (Bombay) finished with the lowest and cheapest rankings. With New York City, USA, used as a median (ranked at 100), Mumbai and New Delhi rated just 42 and 41 respectively.

federal depository of US gold since Dec 1936. Gold's peak price was $850 (£558), on 21 Jan 1980.

HIGHEST GNP PER CAPITA
The country with the highest gross national product (GNP) per capita in 1998 was Luxembourg, according to the World Bank, with a figure of $45,100 (£27,899).

LOWEST GNP PER CAPITA
Ethiopia, with a GNP per capita of $100 (£60), had the worst rating of the 260 countries for which figures were available to the World Bank in 1998.

LEAST VALUABLE CURRENCY
In May 2000 there were 615,290 Turkish lira to the US dollar (927,123 Turkish lira to the pound sterling, and 571,810 to the euro).

HIGHEST COST OF LIVING
For the ninth year running, Tokyo, Japan, topped a survey of the most expensive cities in the world. Using New York City, USA, as a median, Tokyo rated at 64% more expensive than the US city. The Economist Intelligence Unit publishes the bi-annual survey to help companies calculate salary packages for employees they plan to relocate overseas.

MOST INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES
Equatorial Guinea is the world's most industrialized country, with 66.4% of its GDP derived from industry in 1998, of which a major proportion came directly from extractive industries.

Belarus derives the highest amount of its GDP from its manufacturing sector, with 39.2% in 1998, according to the World Development Report 2000.

MOST RENTED HOUSING
The country with the greatest percentage of rented housing is Estonia where, in 1995, 81.5% of property was rented.

The British Crown Colony of Gibraltar had an even higher rate at the time of the 1991 census, with 84.8% of all housing rented.

MOST PRIVATE HOUSING
The country with the greatest percentage of private housing is Mongolia where, in 1997, 100% of property was occupied by the owner.

MOST DWELLING UNITS
China has the greatest number of dwelling units, with 276,947,962 at the time of the most recent census, in 1990.

MOST HOSPITALS
The country with the greatest number of hospitals is China, with 67,807 in 1995.

MOST HOSPITAL BEDS PER CAPITA
Monaco has the most hospital beds per person, with 163 for every 10,000 people.

FEWEST HOSPITAL BEDS PER CAPITA
Benin and Nepal have the fewest hospital beds, with three per 10,000 people.

← MOST RURAL COUNTRY
According to a 1998 World Bank survey, agriculture contributed to 62.8% of Guinea-Bissau's GDP. One of the 20 poorest countries in the world, it depends mainly on farming and fishing.

World Leaders

YOUNGEST QUEEN
Queen Margrethe II of Denmark was 31 years old when her coronation took place on 14 Jan 1972.

YOUNGEST PRESIDENT
The youngest head of state of a republic is Lt Yaya Jammeh, who became president of the Provisional Council and head of state of the Gambia at the age of 29 on 26 July 1994, following a military coup. He was elected president on 27 Sept 1996 after a return to civilian government.

OLDEST PRESIDENT
The world's oldest republican head of state is 83-year-old Kiro Gligorov, president of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

YOUNGEST PRIME MINISTER
Ljupco Georgievski was 32 years old when he became prime minister of the FYR of Macedonia on 30 Nov 1998. He leads the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization–Democratic Party of Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE).

⊙ FIRST LADY OF MOST COUNTRIES
Graca Machel was married to Samora Machel, president of Mozambique, from 1975 to 19 Oct 1986, when he was killed in a plane crash. On 18 July 1998 she married Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa, making her the first woman to be 'first lady' of two different countries.

⊙ YOUNGEST MONARCH
The world's youngest monarch is King Mswati III of Swaziland (right). He was crowned on 25 April 1986, aged 18 years 6 days.

OLDEST PRIME MINISTER
Sirimavo Bandaranaike was 78 years old when she was elected prime minister of Sri Lanka in Nov 1994, the third time she had held the office. She had become the world's first ever woman prime minister in July 1960. Her daughter, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, is the country's president.

SHORTEST HEAD OF STATE
The shortest head of state is Frederick Chiluba, who became president of Zambia in 1991. He is 1.52 m (5 ft) tall.

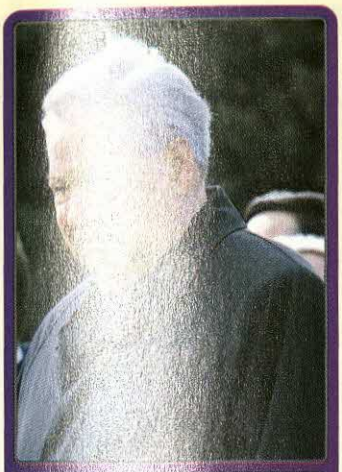
LONGEST-SERVING HEADS OF STATE
Omar Bongo has been president of the central African republic of Gabon since 2 Dec 1967. He was re-elected, unopposed, at presidential elections held every seven years under a single-party system until 1993, when he was returned with a narrow majority following the restoration of a multi-party system.

The longest-serving ruler of a republic is Fidel Castro, who became prime minister of Cuba on 26 July 1959, following the overthrow of the dictator Fulgencio Batista. Castro has been president and head of government of the country since 3 Dec 1976, when the post of premier was abolished.

LONGEST REIGN
Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX), the King of Thailand, is the world's longest-reigning monarch. He succeeded to the throne on 9 June 1946, following the death of his older brother.

The most durable monarch is Norodom Sihanouk, the King of Cambodia. He became king for the first time on 16 April 1941, abdicated on 2 March 1955, and returned to the throne on 24 Sept 1993, aged 70.

LONGEST-SERVING WOMAN PRIME MINISTER
The world's longest-serving woman premier was Indira Gandhi. She was prime minister of India for a total of 15 years 11 months, in two periods: from Jan 1966 to March 1977, and from Jan 1980 until her assassination in Oct 1984.



⊙ HIGHEST PERSONAL MAJORITY

Boris Yeltsin had a personal majority of 4,726,112 in parliamentary elections held in the Soviet Union on 26 March 1989. Yeltsin, who became president of the Russian Federation, received 5,118,745 of the 5,722,937 votes cast in his Moscow constituency.

MOST WOMEN MINISTERS

The country with the most women ministers is Sweden, where, following the March 1996 general election, a cabinet consisting of 11 female and 11 male ministers was formed.

HIGHEST-PAID PRIME MINISTER

Yoshiro Mori, the Japanese prime minister, has a salary of $676,000 (£444,845) per year, a total that includes monthly allowances and bonuses.

LONGEST UN SPEECH

A UN speech made by President Fidel Castro of Cuba on 26 Sept 1960 lasted for 4 hr 29 min.

MOST HEADS OF STATE TOGETHER

To mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, a Special Commemorative Meeting of the General Assembly was held at the UN headquarters in New York City, USA, from 22 to 24 Oct 1995. It was attended by a record 128 heads of government and of state.

PRESIDENT WITH MOST FAMILY MEMBERS IN POWER

Until 1995, Barzan Ibrahim, a half-brother of Iraqi president Saddam Hussein, was ambassador to the UN and controlled much of the family fortune. Another of Saddam's half-brothers, Watban Ibrahim, was minister of the interior, and a third half-brother, Sabaoni Ibrahim, was chief of general security. Saddam's sons, Udday and Qusay, hold various state and other offices. The latter was head of security services, but was replaced by one of Saddam's in-laws.

← HEAVIEST MONARCH

King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga, who is 1.90 m (6 ft 3 in) tall, weighed 209.5 kg (33 stone) in Sept 1976. By 1985 he was reported to have slimmed down to 139.7 kg (22 stone); in early 1993 he was 127 kg (20 stone); and by 1998 he had lost further weight as a result of a fitness programme.

Campaigns

BIGGEST DEMONSTRATION
A total of 2.7 million people were reported to have taken part in a demonstration against the USSR in Shanghai, China, from 3 to 4 March 1969, following border clashes.

LONGEST CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MARCH
On 12 March 1930 Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi led 78 followers on a 387.8-km (241-mile) march from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi, Gujarat, India, to protest at British India's levy of a tax on salt. The protestors arrived in Dandi on 5 April 1930. Gandhi picked up a lump of salt that was being harvested on the seashore, only to be arrested immediately for producing salt illegally.

BIGGEST ANTI-WAR RALLY
On 15 Nov 1969 an estimated 600,000 people gathered in Washington, DC, USA, to protest against continued US involvement in the Vietnam War.

BIGGEST RACIAL EQUALITY RALLY
On 28 Aug 1963 US civil rights campaigner Martin Luther King led more than 250,000 protestors on a march in Washington, DC, USA, to demand equal rights for all Americans, irrespective of their race or colour.

LONGEST HUMAN CHAIN
On 23 Aug 1989 approximately 2 million people joined hands to form a 595-km (370-mile) human chain across Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The event took place to mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of a non-aggression treaty between the USSR and Nazi Germany.

LONGEST CIVIL COURT CASE
The longest civil court case led by the same individual lasted for a record 32 years from 1965 to 1997. Prof Saburo Ienaga, who taught history at the now-defunct Tokyo University of Education, Japan, had challenged a ruling by the Japanese Ministry of Education that his textbook *The New History Of Japan* should be altered. The Ministry objected to passages in the book which stated that the Japanese government had committed atrocities during World War II, and that they had glamorized war. Ienaga was finally awarded $4,000 (£2,440) damages by the Japanese Supreme Court.

⊙ BIGGEST ENVIRONMENTAL PETITION
A petition launched by Greenpeace in 1995, calling for President Chirac of France to end nuclear testing near the French Polynesian island of Mururoa, was signed by a record 8.5 million people. The tests finally came to an end in Jan 1996.

BIGGEST SEX DISCRIMINATION SETTLEMENT
On 22 March 2000 the US government agreed to pay $508 million (£323 million) to settle a sex discrimination suit brought by 1,100 women against the US Information Agency.

YOUNGEST PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE
Three-year-old Saint Wunna Khin was one of [illegible] people, including her mother, who were arrested in Burma (Myanmar) between 19 and [illegible] July 1999. She was released on [illegible] July 1999.

⊙ BIGGEST GAY RIGHTS MARCH
Approximately 300,000 people took part in the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation, held in Washington, DC, USA, on 25 April 1993. The event was planned to show support for legislation granting equal rights to homosexuals in American society, such as an end to the ban on gays in the military.

LONGEST-HELD PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE
Woo Yong-gak (North Korea) was held in Taejon Prison, South Korea, for 40 years following his arrest for espionage in 1958. He spent much of his sentence in solitary confinement.

BIGGEST BOOK OF SIGNATURES
During their year-long Get Up Sign Up campaign, organized to show support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Amnesty International collected the signatures of over 10 million people. These were then compiled into a book, which was presented to Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, in Paris, France, on 10 Dec 1998.

BIGGEST PETITION
Between 1 June 1993 and 31 Oct 1994 a total of 21,202,192 people, most of whom were from South Korea, signed a petition protesting against the partition of Korea and the forced separation of families that resulted from this.

BIGGEST CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
The World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) is the world's largest independent conservation organization. Registered as a charity on 11 Sept 1961, it has around 5 million supporters in some 100 countries. The aim of the WWF is to protect nature and conserve biological diversity.

BIGGEST HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION
Amnesty International has more than 1.2 million members and supporters in 160 countries and territories, with national offices in 50 countries and over 5,300 local groups on every continent except Antarctica.

LONGEST-RUNNING ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN
The environmental pressure group Greenpeace was founded in 1971 and has been campaigning against nuclear testing ever since. Its first protest was against testing off the coast of Alaska, USA.

GREATEST DISTANCE COVERED BY CAMPAIGN VESSELS
Greenpeace's campaigning flagships, *Rainbow Warrior 1* and its replacement, *Rainbow Warrior 2*, have covered an estimated total of 926,600 km (575,780 miles). *Rainbow Warrior 1* was sunk by the French secret service in 1985.

→ MOST INTERNATIONAL PETITION
A petition launched in April 1999 as part of the campaign by the anti-debt movement Jubilee 2000 had been signed by 17 million people from 160 countries and territories by 4 April 2000. Pictured are two of the campaign's most high-profile supporters, Bono of U2 (left) and boxing legend Muhammad Ali.

Religion

BIGGEST RELIGION
Christianity is the world's predominant religion, with some 2 billion adherents in 1999, or 33% of the world's population. However, religious statistics are necessarily only tentative, as the test of adherence to religion varies widely in rigour.

BIGGEST RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION
The world's largest religious denomination is Roman Catholicism, which had 1.045 billion adherents (17.4% of the world's population) as of Feb 2000.

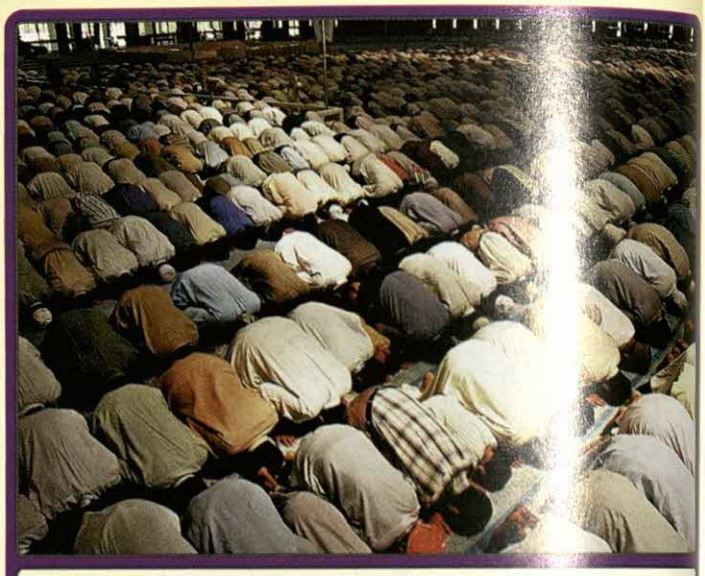
BIGGEST NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGION
The largest non-Christian religion is Islam, with some 1.16 billion followers in 1999. The biggest Muslim denomination is Sunni, which is adhered to by 85% of the world's Muslim population.

BIGGEST BUDDHIST TEMPLE
Borobudur, near Jogjakarta, Indonesia, is 31.4 m (103 ft) tall and covers an area of 15,129 m² (162,853 ft²).

BIGGEST HINDU TEMPLES
The Srirangam Temple complex in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India, covers an area of 63.1 ha (156 acres), with a perimeter of 1,116 km (693.5 miles).

The largest Hindu temple outside India is the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, London, UK, which covers an area of 6,071 m² (65,344 ft²).

BIGGEST SYNAGOGUE
Temple Emanu-El, New York City, USA, has an area of 3,523 m² (37,922 ft²). When the adjoining Beth-El Chapel and the Temple's other three sanctuaries are in use, 5,500 people can be accommodated in the synagogue.



⊙ BIGGEST MOSQUE
The Shah Faisal Mosque near Islamabad, Pakistan, can accommodate 100,000 worshippers in the prayer hall and courtyard and a further 200,000 in the adjacent grounds. The total area of the complex is 19 ha (47 acres), with the covered area of the prayer hall taking up 0.48 ha (1.19 acres).

⊙ HIGHEST PILGRIMAGE
The world's highest-altitude pilgrimage ends at Mount Kailas, Tibet, which has a height of 6,714 m (22,000 ft). Also known as Mount Meru, the mountain attracts the followers of four religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Bon-po, a pre-Buddhist shamanistic religion practised in Tibet.

BIGGEST CHURCH
The largest church in the world is the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast). Completed in 1989, it has a total area of 30,000 m² (323,000 ft²), with seating for 7,000 people.

BIGGEST ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
The Cathedral Church of Christ the Saviour, Moscow, Russia, is 102.1 m (335 ft) high. Built to commemorate Russia's dead in the Napoleonic Wars, it was completed in 1883, partially destroyed by Stalin in 1931 and restored between 1995 and 1997.

BIGGEST MORMON TEMPLE
The Salt Lake City Temple, Utah, USA, dedicated on 6 April 1893, has a total floor area of 23,505 m² (253,000 ft²).

BIGGEST RELIGIOUS CROWD
The highest recorded number of people known to have assembled with a common purpose is an

estimated 20 million Hindu pilgrims who gathered at the 'half' Kumbha Mela festival in Prayag, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, on 30 Jan 1995. The festival, which lasts for one and a half months, is held every three years at one of four different sites: Prayag, Nasik, Ujjain and Haridwar.

BIGGEST GATHERING OF SIKHS
From 13 to 17 April 1999 more than 8 million Sikhs gathered at the Anandpur Sahib temple, Punjab, India, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Sikh Khalsa, one of the orders of the Sikh religion.

BIGGEST PAPAL CROWD
On 15 Jan 1995 Pope John Paul II offered Mass to an estimated 4–5 million people at Luneta Park, Manila, Philippines.

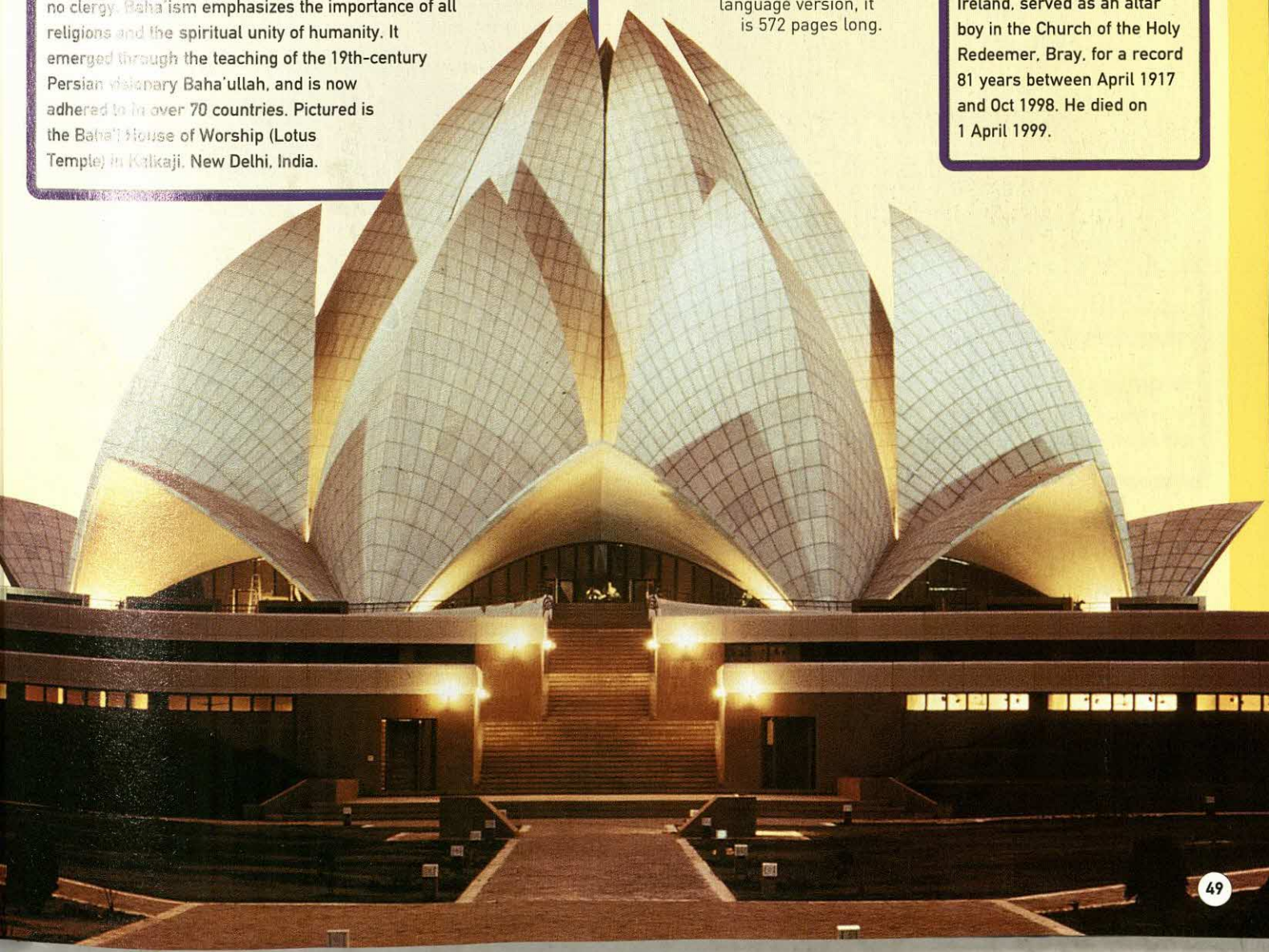
MOST COMPLETE MODERN PURDAH
Since the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban movement took control of Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, in 1996, Afghan women have been subjected to the most complete purdah in the modern world. Forced to wear an all-covering garment, they are denied access both to education and employment in Taliban-controlled areas of the country.

FASTEST-GROWING MODERN CHURCH
The Kimbanguist Church, which was founded in 1959 by Baptist student Simon Kimbangui, had over 6.5 million members by 1996.

SMALLEST KORAN
A miniature Koran owned by Narendra and Neera Bhatia from Faridabad, India, measures just 2 cm x 1.5 cm x 1 cm (0.8 in x 0.6 in x 0.4 in). An unabridged Arabic-language version, it is 572 pages long.

⊙ LONGEST-SERVING ALTAR BOY
Tommy Kinsella of Bray, Co Wicklow, Republic of Ireland, served as an altar boy in the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Bray, for a record 81 years between April 1917 and Oct 1998. He died on 1 April 1999.

↓ BIGGEST RELIGION WITHOUT RITES
The Baha'i faith, which is practised by approximately 6 million people worldwide, has no ceremonies, no sacraments and no clergy. Baha'ism emphasizes the importance of all religions and the spiritual unity of humanity. It emerged through the teaching of the 19th-century Persian visionary Baha'ullah, and is now adhered to in over 70 countries. Pictured is the Baha'i House of Worship (Lotus Temple) in Kalkaji, New Delhi, India.



War & Peace

⊙ BIGGEST ARMY
According to *Jane's World Armies*, China's People's Liberation Army had 2.2 million service personnel as of May 2000.

LONGEST WARS
The longest continuous war was the Thirty Years War, fought between various European countries from 1618 to 1648.

The *Reconquista* – the series of campaigns to recover the Iberian Peninsula from the Moors – began in 718 and continued intermittently for 774 years until 1492, when Granada was finally recaptured by the Spanish.

SHORTEST WAR
The shortest war on record was fought between the UK and Zanzibar (now part of Tanzania). It lasted for just 45 minutes, from 9:00 to 9:45 am on 27 Aug 1896.

MOST EXPENSIVE WAR
The material cost of World War II (1939–45) has been estimated at $1.5 trillion (£940 billion) – more than the cost of all other wars put together.

BIGGEST MILITARY EVACUATION
The largest evacuation in military history was that carried out by 1,200 Allied naval and civil craft from the beachhead at Dunkirk, France, between 26 May and 4 June 1940. A total of 338,226 British and French troops were evacuated.

BIGGEST CIVILIAN EVACUATION
In 1945 an estimated 2 million Germans were evacuated from East Prussia when the region was ceded to the Soviet Union under the terms of the Potsdam Agreement. The Germans were replaced by Russians, Belorussians, Ukrainians and other Soviet citizens. Although some military personnel were moved, the overwhelming majority of evacuees were civilians.

BLOODIEST WARS
The costliest war in terms of human life was World War II, in which the total number of military and civilian deaths is estimated to have been 56.4 million. Poland suffered the largest number of fatalities: 6.028 million people, or 17.2% of its pre-war population, were killed.

In Paraguay's war against Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay from 1864 to 1870, Paraguay's population was reduced from 407,000 to 221,000. Fewer than 30,000 survivors were adult males.

OLDEST ARMY
The oldest military unit in the world is the Vatican's 80 to 90-strong Swiss Guard, which dates back to 21 Jan 1506. Its origins, however, predate 1400.

BIGGEST NAVY
The largest navy in the world in terms of human resources is the US Navy, with 570,400 serving personnel, including Marines, as of Jan 2000.

The US Navy is also the largest in terms of warships, with 315 principal battle vessels. As of May 2000, 98 of these were deployed.

BIGGEST AIR FORCE
The largest air force in the world in terms of human resources is China's, with 470,000 service personnel as of Jan 2000.

The largest air force in terms of aircraft is that of the USA, which had 4,413 combat aircraft as of Sept 1999. This total includes 179 bombers, 1,666 fighter and attack aircraft and 1,279 trainer aircraft.

⊙ MOST PEOPLE KILLED BY AN ATOMIC BOMB
On 6 Aug 1945 155,200 people were killed when an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. This figure includes deaths from radiation sickness within a year of the explosion.

⊙ LONGEST-RUNNING PEACEKEEPING OPERATION

The longest-running UN peacekeeping mission is UNTSO (United Nations Truce Supervision Organization), which has been in place since June 1948. UNTSO's headquarters are in Jerusalem, Israel, but it maintains military observation posts throughout the Middle East.

MOST INDIVIDUALS KILLED IN A TERRORIST ACT
On 23 June 1985 a total of 329 people were killed when a bomb that was believed to have been planted by Sikh extremists exploded on board an Air India Boeing 747. The plane was flying over the Atlantic Ocean, southwest of Ireland, at the time.

MOST MULTINATIONAL ARMY
As of March 2000 the French Foreign Legion had 8,200 men from 120 different countries serving in its ranks. Most new recruits come from former Eastern Bloc nations. After months of intensive training at the Legion's barracks in Castelnaudary, 321 km (200 miles) west of Marseilles, France, the new Legionnaires are presented with the *kepis blanc*, the regimental cap.

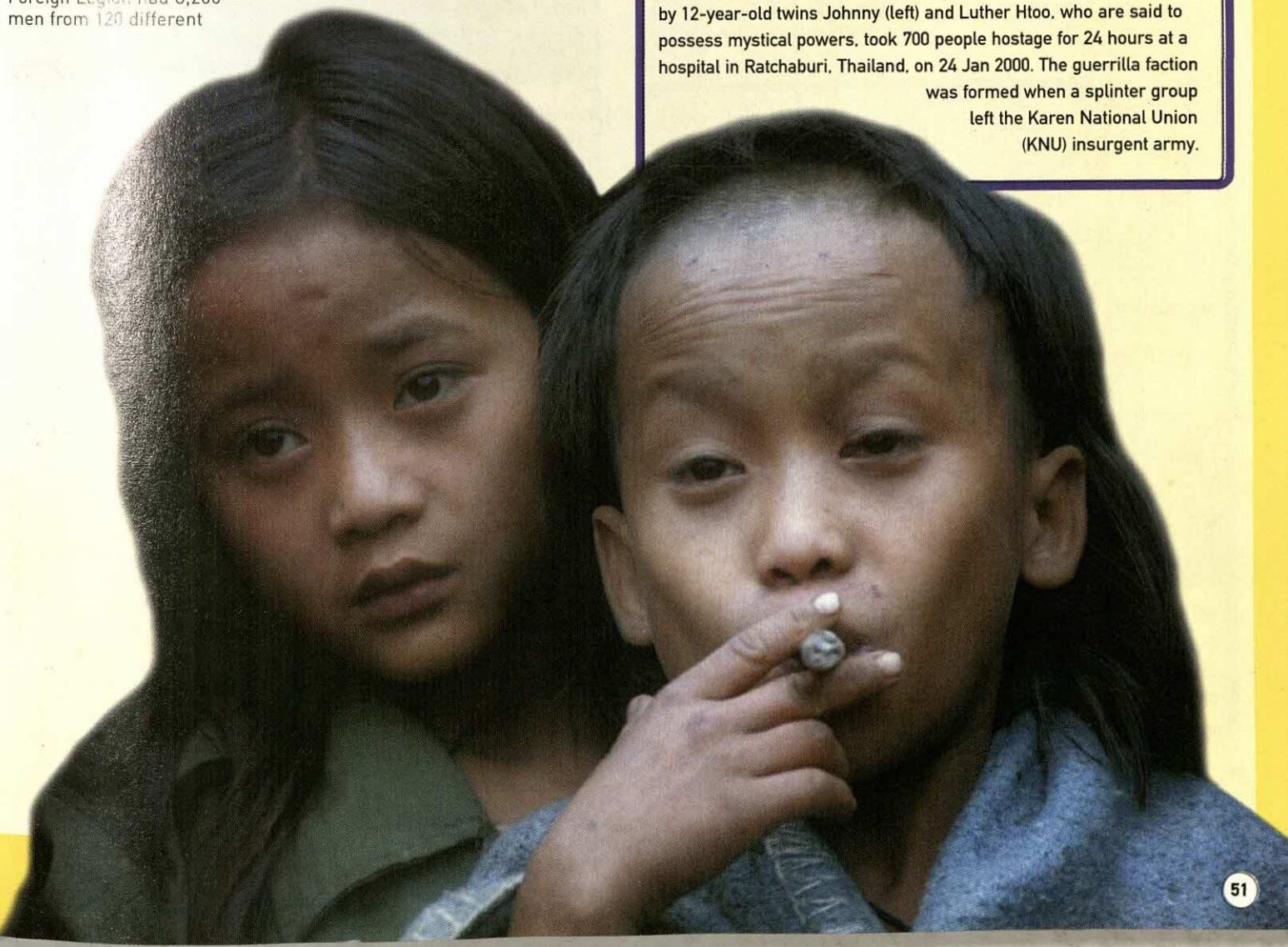
BIGGEST CONTRIBUTORS TO PEACEKEEPING
Canada and Fiji have taken part in the most United Nations peacekeeping operations to date, having each participated in approximately 40 out of 49 missions.

BIGGEST PEACEKEEPING DEPLOYMENT
The UN peacekeeping mission with the largest deployment was UNPROFOR (United Nations Protection Force), which took place in former Yugoslavia from Feb 1992 to March 1995. The mission attained a maximum strength of 39,922 military personnel in Sept 1994, including a rapid reaction force.

OLDEST TREATY
The oldest treaty still in force is the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty, which was signed in London, UK, on 16 June 1373.

↓ YOUNGEST GUERRILLA LEADERS

'God's Army', a renegade ethnic group from Burma (Myanmar) led by 12-year-old twins Johnny (left) and Luther Htoo, who are said to possess mystical powers, took 700 people hostage for 24 hours at a hospital in Ratchaburi, Thailand, on 24 Jan 2000. The guerrilla faction was formed when a splinter group left the Karen National Union (KNU) insurgent army.



Crime

MOST PROLIFIC MURDERERS
It was established at the trial of Behram, the Indian thug, that he had strangled at least 931 victims with his yellow and white cloth strip, or *ruhmal*, in the Oudh district (now in Uttar Pradesh, India) between 1790 and 1840.

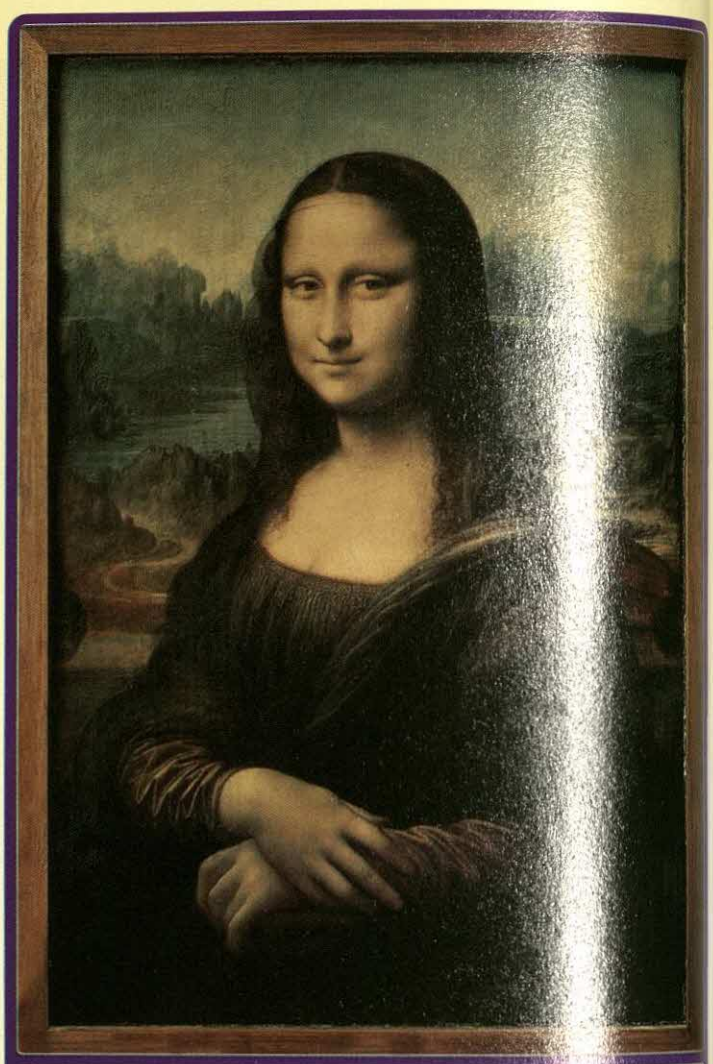
The most prolific female murderer was Elizabeth Bathory (1560–1615) of Transylvania (now Romania). She is alleged to have killed around 650 girls in order to drink their blood and bathe in it, an act that she believed would preserve her youth.

MOST PROLIFIC MODERN SERIAL KILLER
Pedro Lopez (Colombia) raped and killed a total of 300 young girls in Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. The 'Monster of the Andes' was sentenced to life imprisonment in Ecuador in 1980, on 57 charges.

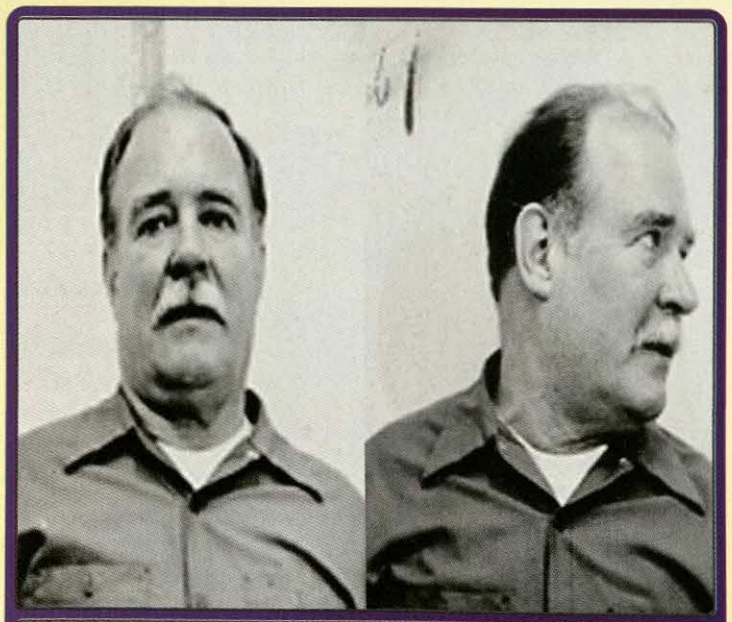
BIGGEST JEWEL ROBBERY
The costliest jewel theft on record took place at the Carlton Hotel, Cannes, France, on 11 Aug 1994. Gems with an estimated value of $45 million (£30 million) were stolen from the jewellery shop by a three-man gang.

BIGGEST ROBBERY BY A MUGGER
Treasury bills and certificates of deposit worth £292 million ($525.6 million) were stolen when a moneybrokers' messenger was mugged in the City of London, UK, on 2 May 1990.

BIGGEST OBJECT STOLEN
On 5 June 1966, armed only with an axe, William Kennedy slashed free the mooring lines of the 10,639-dwt *SS Orient Trader*, owned by Steel Factors Ltd of Ontario, at Wolfe's Cove, St Lawrence Seaway, Canada. The vessel drifted to a waiting blacked-out tug, thus evading a ban on any shipping movements during a waterfront strike. It then sailed for Spain.



⊙ MOST VALUABLE OBJECT STOLEN
Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, which has never actually been valued, is probably the most valuable object ever stolen. It was taken from the Louvre, Paris, France, on 21 Aug 1911, and recovered in Italy in 1913, when Vincenzo Perugia was charged with its theft.



⊙ MOST PRISON TRANSFERS
Over a period of 27 years, between 1971 and his death on 12 Sept 1998, Lawrence Doyle Conklin (USA) was transferred 117 times between 53 different prison facilities in the USA.

BIGGEST CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION
According to Interpol, the centuries-old Six Great Triads of China form the world's largest organized criminal association, with an estimated 100,000 members scattered around the world.

MOST PROFITABLE CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION
The most profitable organized crime syndicate is believed to be the Mafia. In March 1986 Rudolph Giuliani, then US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, estimated their profits at $75 billion (£51 billion).

LONGEST CRIMINAL TRIAL
The longest criminal trial took place in Hong Kong and lasted from 30 Nov 1992 to 29 Nov 1994. The High Court sat for a record 398 days to hear charges against 14 South Vietnamese boat people accused of murdering 24 North Vietnamese adults and children who died in a blazing hut during a riot at a refugee camp in Hong Kong in Feb 1992. All the defendants were eventually acquitted of murder.

⊙ MOST SECURE PRISON
The Administrative Maximum Facility 'Supermax' Prison, west of Pueblo, Colorado, USA, is equipped with motion detectors, 1,400 remote-controlled steel doors, laser-beams, pressure pads and silent attack dogs. Inmates include Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, Theodore Kaczynski (the 'Unabomber') and Mafia don John Gotti.

LONGEST SENTENCES
Chamoy Thipyaso and seven of her associates were each jailed for 141,078 years by the Bangkok Criminal Court, Thailand, on 27 July 1989. They had been swindling the public through a multi-million-dollar deposit-taking business.

The longest sentence given to a mass murderer was the 21 life sentences imposed on John Wayne Gacy, who killed 33 people between 1972 and 1978 in Illinois, USA. He also received 12 death sentences at his trial in Chicago, Illinois, in 1980, and was executed on 10 May 1994.

GREATEST MASS ARREST
The greatest mass arrest reported in a democratic country was that of 15,617 demonstrators rounded up by South Korean police on 11 July 1988. This was to ensure tight security for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

MOST ARRESTS
Tommy Johns of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, faced his 2,000th conviction for drunkenness on 9 Sept 1982. By the time he died, in 1988, his total had reached nearly 3,000, stretching back to 1957.

MOST EXECUTIONS
China executes more people than the rest of the world put together. Over 17,500 people were executed there between 1990 and the end of 1999.

MOST EXECUTIONS PER CAPITA
Saudi Arabia executed 103 people in 1999, or one for every 208,772 residents. A total of 1,163 people have been executed in the country since 1980, many of them foreign nationals and migrant workers.

BIGGEST PRISON POPULATION
In Feb 2000 the prison population in the USA reached two million. This accounts for 25% of the world's prison population, although the country has only 5% of the world's total population.

← BIGGEST CRIMINAL GANG
The Yamaguchi-gumi gang of the *yakuza*, the Japanese criminal organization, has 30,000 members. Hiroyuki Suzuki (left), a former gangster who is now a priest, has typical *yakuza* characteristics, such as tattoos and cut-off fingertips.

Super Rich

RICHEST PERSON OF ALL TIME
The wealth of John D Rockefeller (USA) was estimated at $900 million (£184 million) in 1913, equivalent to $189.6 billion (£126.5 billion) today. Having made his fortune in oil, Rockefeller retired in 1897; by 1922 he had given away $1 billion (£225.7 million) to his family and to charity, keeping just $20 million (£4.52 million) for himself.

RICHEST LIVING PERSON
According to *Forbes* magazine, Bill Gates (USA), the founder and chairman of Microsoft Corporation, is the richest person in the world, with an estimated fortune of $60 billion (£38 billion). In 2000 Gates was briefly knocked off the No 1 spot by both Lawrence Ellison (USA), the founder of Oracle, and Masayoshi Son (Japan), the president of Softbank.

RICHEST WOMAN
Liliane Bettencourt (France), the heiress to the L'Oréal fortune, has an estimated net worth of $15.2 billion (£10.1 billion). Her wealth has increased from $13.9 billion (£8.7 billion) in 1999, thanks to L'Oréal's double-digit growth – and because she's worth it.

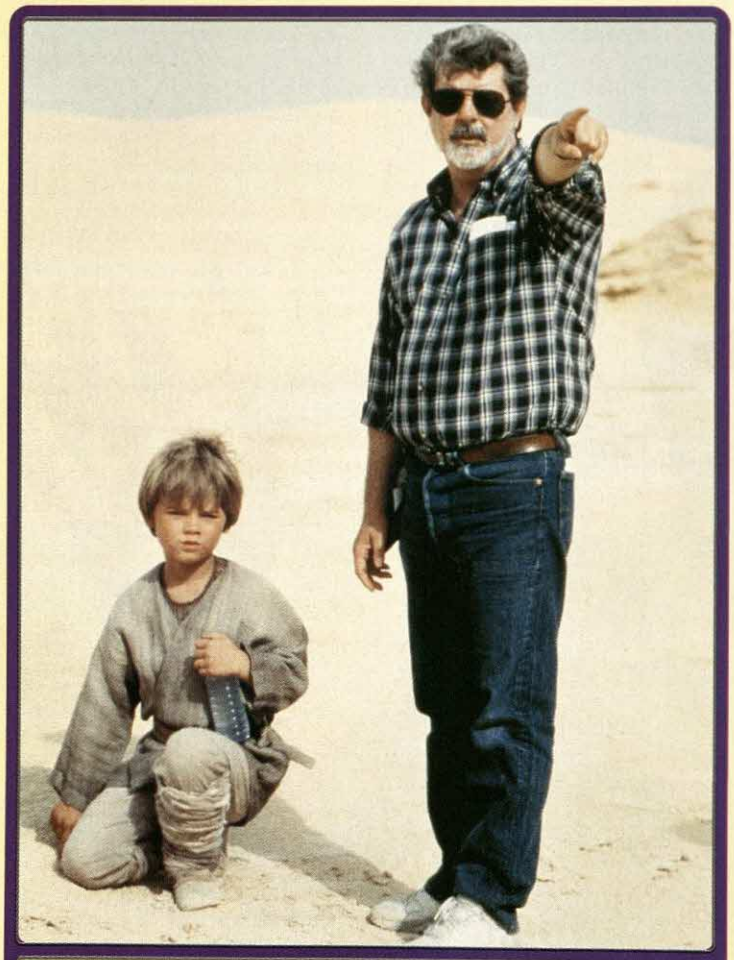
RICHEST MEDIA TYCOON
Kenneth Thomson (Canada), the head of publishing and information group Thomson Corp, has a fortune of $16.1 billion (£10.7 billion). The company currently owns 55 North American newspapers, including Canada's *Globe & Mail*, but is now focusing more on electronic information, having agreed as of June 2000 to buy rival information provider Primark Corp for $1 billion (£672 million).

RICHEST COSMETICS TYCOONS
Leonard and Ronald Lauder (USA) and their family have a combined fortune of $8.8 billion (£5.9 billion). Leonard runs Estée Lauder, the cosmetics company founded by his mother.

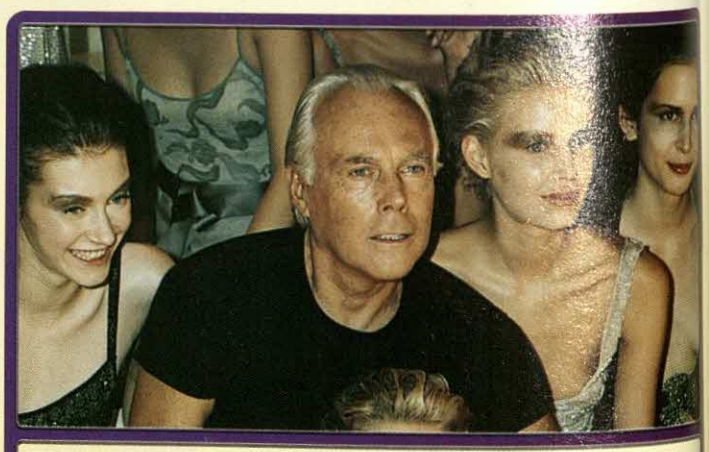
RICHEST ROYAL
According to *Forbes* magazine, King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud of Saudi Arabia has an estimated fortune of $30 billion (£18.7 billion). He has overtaken Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan of Brunei, who is now worth $16 billion (£10.[illegible] billion).

RICHEST LUXURY GOODS TYCOON
Bernard Arnault (France), the chairman of luxury goods company LVMH, is worth an estimated $12 billion (£8.4 billion). The strength of the luxury goods market led to a doubling of his fortune between 1999 and 2000. LVMH owns brands such as Christian Dior, Givenchy, Kenzo and Louis Vuitton, and had total sales of $8 billion (£5.3 billion) in 1999.

RICHEST BAND
The Rolling Stones (UK) are the world's richest music group, with a combined fortune of £425 million ($6[illegible] million). In 2000, according to *The Sunday Times*, lead singer Mick Jagger had an estimated worth of



⊙ HIGHEST ANNUAL EARNINGS BY A FILM PRODUCER
Hollywood producer-director George Lucas (USA) topped the 2000 *Forbes* Celebrity 100 List, having earned $400 million (£249 million) in 1999 following the release of *Star Wars: Episode 1 – The Phantom Menace*.



⊙ HIGHEST ANNUAL EARNINGS BY A FASHION DESIGNER
According to the 2000 *Forbes* Celebrity 100 List, Giorgio Armani (Italy) earned an estimated $135 million (£84 million) in 1999.

⊙ HIGHEST ANNUAL EARNINGS BY A BAND
The Backstreet Boys (USA) earned an estimated $60 million (£37.4 million) in 1999, according to the 2000 *Forbes* Celebrity 100 List.

£150 million ($241 million), guitarist Keith Richards was worth £130 million ($209 million), drummer Charlie Watts was worth £65 million ($104.5 million), guitarist Ronnie Wood was worth £55 million ($88.3 million) and former bassist Bill Wyman was worth £25 million ($40.2 million).

RICHEST MUSIC PRODUCER
Master P, the Chief Executive Officer of No Limit Records, based in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, has an estimated net worth of $56.5 million (£37.7 million). Born Percy Miller, Master P has stayed out of the East Coast/West Coast rap feud and is currently the world's most successful rap star.

YOUNGEST BILLIONAIRE
Jerry Yang (USA), the co-founder of internet search engine Yahoo! Inc, became a billionaire in 1998, aged 29. He is now worth an estimated $4 billion (£2.7 billion).

RICHEST BUSINESSMEN IN EUROPE
Theo and Karl Albrecht (Germany) and their family have a combined fortune of $20 billion (£13.3 billion). They own the Aldi discount store group, which had revenues of $26 billion (£16.2 billion) in 1999, as well as the Trader Joe's chain and a 7% share in Albertson's supermarkets.

RICHEST BUSINESSMAN IN ASIA
The fortune of Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Alsaud (Saudi Arabia) was estimated at $20 billion (£13.2 billion) in May 2000. An investor, mostly in US and European blue-chip stocks, his major holding is Citigroup.

RICHEST BUSINESSMAN IN LATIN AMERICA
Carlos Slim Helú, the head of Mexican conglomerate Grupo Carso, is Latin America's richest man, with a combined family fortune of $7.9 billion (£5.3 billion). The group has interests in a number of different fields, including technology, telecommunications, financial services and retailing, with stakes in US companies CompUSA and CDNow and a controlling interest in internet service provider Prodigy.

RICHEST BUSINESSMAN IN AFRICA
Nicky Oppenheimer (South Africa), the chairman of the diamond and mining empire De Beers, has a family fortune estimated at $2.8 billion (£1.9 billion).

→ HIGHEST-PAID BOXER
Oscar de la Hoya (USA) is the world's highest-paid boxer, with estimated earnings of $43.5 million (£27 million) in 1999, according to the 2000 *Forbes* Celebrity 100 List.

Big Business 1

⊙ BIGGEST CHANGE IN SHARE PRICE IN A DAY

On 27 March 2000 the price of one share in Yahoo! Japan stood at $1.12 million (£707,400). By the end of trading on 28 March 2000 this had dropped to $518,200 (£326,600) – a fall of $610,100 (£384,500), or 54.07%. A total of 51.2% of Yahoo! Japan, the country's dominant information portal, is owned by Japanese company Softbank, with US-based Yahoo! owning 34.2%.

BIGGEST FLOTATION
The stock market launch of ENEL, Italy's state-owned electricity generator and distributor, became the world's largest ever initial public offering after the Italian government sold shares worth $19.26 billion (£11.2 billion) on 31 Oct 1999.

BIGGEST AGM ATTENDANCE
A record total of 20,109 shareholders attended the AGM of American Telephone and Telegraph Company (now AT&T Corp) in April 1961.

HIGHEST-PAID CEO
Charles B Wang, the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Computer Associates International, earned $650,048,000 (£418,734,741) in the financial year 1999/2000 – a figure that includes salary, bonus and stock gains. His total earnings over the period 1996–2000 were $713,452,000 (£459,577,045).

HIGHEST INVESTMENT CONSULTANCY FEES
Harry D Schultz, an investment consultant who lives in Monte Carlo, Monaco, charges a record $2,400 (£1,500) on weekdays and $3,400 (£2,125) at weekends for a standard consultation of 60 minutes. His *International Harry Schultz Letter*, which was instituted in 1964 and has subscribers in 90 different countries, sells at $50 (£31) per copy, while a life subscription to the publication costs $2,400 (£1,500). He has written a total of 22 books, mostly about investing.

BIGGEST GOLDEN HANDSHAKE
The largest golden handshake in business history was one of $53.8 million (£34.6 million) given to F Ross Johnson, who left his post as chairman of the food company RJR Nabisco in Feb 1989.

RICHEST INVESTOR
Warren Buffett, the head of Berkshire Hathaway, is the world's richest investor, with an estimated worth of $28 billion (£18.8 billion).

MOST INVESTORS
The record number of investors in a single share issue is 5.9 million, for the Mastergain '92 equity fund, floated by the Unit Trust of India in April and May 1992.

OLDEST FAMILY BUSINESS
The Hoshi Ryokan in Japan dates back to 717 AD and is a family business spanning 46 generations.

OLDEST STOCK EXCHANGE
The Stock Exchange in Amsterdam, Netherlands, was founded in the Oude Zijds Kapel in 1602, for dealings in printed shares of the United East India Company of the Netherlands.

⊙ BIGGEST RECORD COMPANY

Warner EMI Music, the $20-billion (£12.3-million) joint venture between Time Warner and EMI that was announced on 30 Jan 2000, is the world's largest record company. Artists with the company include Madonna (above), Quincy Jones, Garth Brooks and the Rolling Stones.

BIGGEST MARKET CAPITALIZATION
In May 2000 over 3,025 companies had stock listed on the New York Stock Exchange, with global market capitalization worth more than $16 trillion (£10.3 trillion). The 2.089 billion shares were worth a total of $12.3 trillion (£7.9 trillion).

BIGGEST DAILY TRADING VOLUME
On 7 Jan 2000 a total of 136,846,600 shares in Lucent Technology were traded on the New York Stock Exchange – a record for a single stock in one day.

BIGGEST TRADING LOSS SUSTAINED
In 1996 Japan's fourth largest trading company, Sumitomo Corporation, revealed that they had suffered $2.6-billion (£1.7-billion) copper trading losses as a result of unauthorized dealings by one of their top traders, Yasuo Hamanaka. The dealings had taken place on the London Metal Exchange over a 10-year period.

HIGHEST LECTURE FEES
Dr Ronald Dante was paid $3,080,000 (£2,099,093) for lecturing students on hypnotherapy at a two-day course held in Chicago, Illinois, USA, on 1–2 June 1986.

→ LOWEST PAID CEO
Steve Jobs, Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Apple Computer Inc, receives a salary of $1 (£0.62) per year. However, in Jan 2000 he was given a Gulfstream luxury airliner and 10 million stock options for agreeing to stay with Apple as its permanent CEO.

Big Business 2

BIGGEST COMPANIES
The world's largest company is General Electric Co (USA), which had a market capitalization of $532.2 billion (£332.6 billion) in May 2000 and total profits of $10.7 billion (£6.7 billion) in 1999.

General Motors (USA) had total sales of $189 billion (£110.3 billion) in 1999.

BIGGEST BANK
The world's largest bank is Citigroup (USA), with a market capitalization of $207.1 billion (£129.4 billion) in May 2000.

BIGGEST TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY
The Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT) of Japan had a market capitalization of $207 billion (£132.5 billion) in May 2000 and revenues of $75.9 billion (£48.6 billion) in 1998.

BIGGEST LAW FIRM
Clifford Chance LLP (USA) employs 3,100 legal advisers (630 of whom are partners) in 29 offices around the world. The company was formed after the merger of Clifford Chance, Rogers & Wells LLP and Pünder, Volhard, Weber & Axster in Jan 2000. The three companies had a combined revenue of $986 million (£609.9 million) in 1998.

BIGGEST INSURANCE COMPANY
AXA (France) had revenues of $78.7 billion (£48.7 billion) in 1998 and a market capitalization of $49.7 billion (£31.8 billion) in May 2000.

BIGGEST OIL COMPANY
Exxon Mobil (USA) is the biggest oil and energy company in the world, with a market capitalization of $280.8 billion (£175.5 billion) in April 2000.

BIGGEST ADVERTISING AGENCY
WPP Group plc, based in London, UK, became the world's largest advertising agency in May 2000, following its $4.7-billion (£3.1-billion) takeover of US firm Young & Rubicam. In 1999 the companies had a combined revenue of $5.2 billion (£3.2 billion), and earnings before interest and tax of $704 million (£435 million).

BIGGEST PR COMPANY
The world's largest public relations company is Burson-Marsteller, which was founded by Harold Burson and Bill Marsteller in New York City, USA, over 40 years ago. The firm had worldwide revenues of more than $275 million (£170.1 million) in 1995.

BIGGEST PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY
Merck and Co Inc, a research-driven pharmaceutical company based at Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, USA, develops, manufactures and markets a broad range of human and animal health products. On 30 March 2000 its market capitalization stood at $148.4 billion (£92.9 billion), while its sales for the year ending 31 Dec 1999 were $32.71 billion (£20.23 billion).

BIGGEST EMPLOYER
The world's largest commercial or utility employer is Indian Railways. In 1997 it had a record 1,583,614 regular employees.

BIGGEST MOBILE PHONE COMPANY
The world's largest mobile phone company is Vodafone AirTouch Group (UK). The firm was created on 5 Feb 2000, when a £103.4-billion ($171.1-billion) merger between British mobile phone giant Vodafone AirTouch and rival company Mannesmann (Germany) took place.

↓ MOST ADVERTS STARRING A COMPANY FOUNDER

Dave Thomas (USA), the founder of Wendy's Hamburger Restaurants, has appeared in a record 652 TV commercials for his company since April 1989. The shortest one ran for five seconds, and the longest for 60 seconds. 'The Founder' campaign has won 36 major advertising awards.

BIGGEST TOBACCO COMPANY

The world's largest tobacco company is Philip Morris (USA), which had a market capitalization of $50.9 billion (£31.8 billion) in April 2000.

BIGGEST SOAPS AND COSMETICS COMPANY

The largest soaps and cosmetics firm in the world is Procter & Gamble, based in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA. It had a market capitalization of $79.3 billion (£50.7 billion) in May 2000 and revenues of $38.1 billion (£22.6 billion) in 1999.

BIGGEST CRISPS COMPANY

Frito-Lay (USA), part of the PepsiCo Group, is the world's largest producer of savoury snacks, responsible for brands such as Doritos, Cheetos and Ruffles crisps. At the end of 1999 the company had a 30% share of the world's savoury snack market, and accounted for up to two-thirds of PepsiCo's sales.

BIGGEST LIVE ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

SFX Entertainment is the world's largest producer and promoter of live entertainment events such as concerts, Broadway shows and motor sports meets. It also provides sports marketing and management and talent representation services. The company owns, leases or manages about 125 venues in the USA.

BIGGEST PUBLISHING COMPANY

The world's largest publishing and printing company is Bertelsmann AG (Germany). In the financial year ending June 1999, it had sales of $14.16 billion (£8.76 billion).

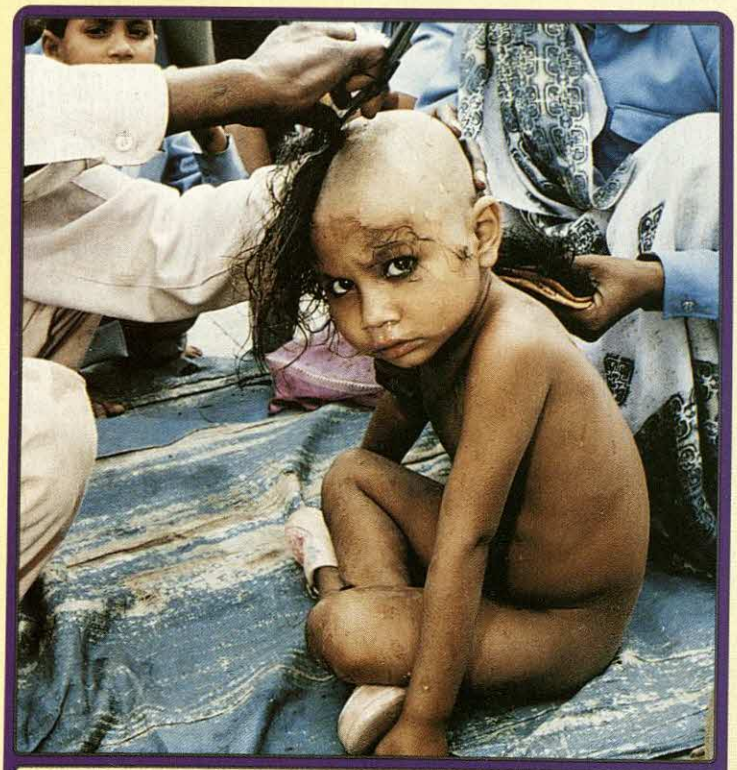
Charities & Gifts

WEALTHIEST CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
The Bill And Melinda Gates Foundation is the world's biggest and wealthiest charitable foundation, with an asset base of $21.8 billion (£13.8 billion). The organization, which comprises two separate charities – The Gates Learning Foundation and The William H Gates Foundation – donates money to global healthcare programmes, education initiatives, libraries and community causes in the Seattle region of Washington, USA. The foundation's largest donation to date, made on 16 Sept 1999, is $1 billion (£612,400), which will be used over 20 years to fund scholarships for students from ethnic minorities.

BIGGEST SINGLE PRIVATE CHARITABLE DONATION
Bill Gates and his wife Melinda donated a record $6 billion (£3.6 billion) to The Bill And Melinda Gates Foundation in Aug 1999.

BIGGEST SINGLE BEQUEST
On 12 March 1991 US publishing tycoon Walter Annenberg announced his intention to leave his art collection, valued at $1 billion (£580 million), to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, USA – the largest single bequest by an individual ever.

⊙ BIGGEST FUNDRAISING CHARITY
From 1991 to 1998 (the last year for which figures are available) the US arm of the Salvation Army raised more funds annually than any other charity. Its total for 1998 was $1.2 billion (£759 million). The organization was founded by William Booth in London, UK, in 1878.



⊙ BIGGEST DONATION OF HAIR
Pilgrims to the Tirupathi Temple in Andhra Pradesh, India, which attracts an average of 30,000 visitors per day, donate their hair as a form of sacrifice. The 600 barbers employed by the temple shave the pilgrims' heads 24 hours a day, and more than $2.2 million (£1.4 million) a year is raised through the auction of the hair.

MOST MONEY RAISED BY A SINGLE SPORTING EVENT
The London Marathon, which has been run through the streets of London, UK, since 1981, raises more money for charity than any other single sporting event in the world. An estimated £20 million ($31.6 million) was raised at the most recent event, held on 16 April 2000.

The greatest amount of money raised by one person in a charity walk or run is $16,629,749 (£10,521,162), by Terry Fox (Canada). Fox, who was suffering from cancer and had an artificial leg, ran a total distance of 5,373 km (3,339 miles) in eastern Canada from 12 April to 2 Sept 1980.

MOST MONEY RAISED BY A MARATHON RUNNER
Retired advertising executive John Spurling (UK) raised £1.13 million ($1.87 million) for charity by running in the London Marathon on 18 April 1999.

⊙ BIGGEST WEDDING BANQUET
Jayalalitha Jayaram (centre), a movie star and former chief minister of Tamil Nadu, India, hosted and paid for a luncheon for over 150,000 guests at the wedding of her foster son, VN Sudhakaran (right) to N Sathyalakshmi (left). The banquet was served by the coast in the state capital, Chennai, on 7 Sept 1995.

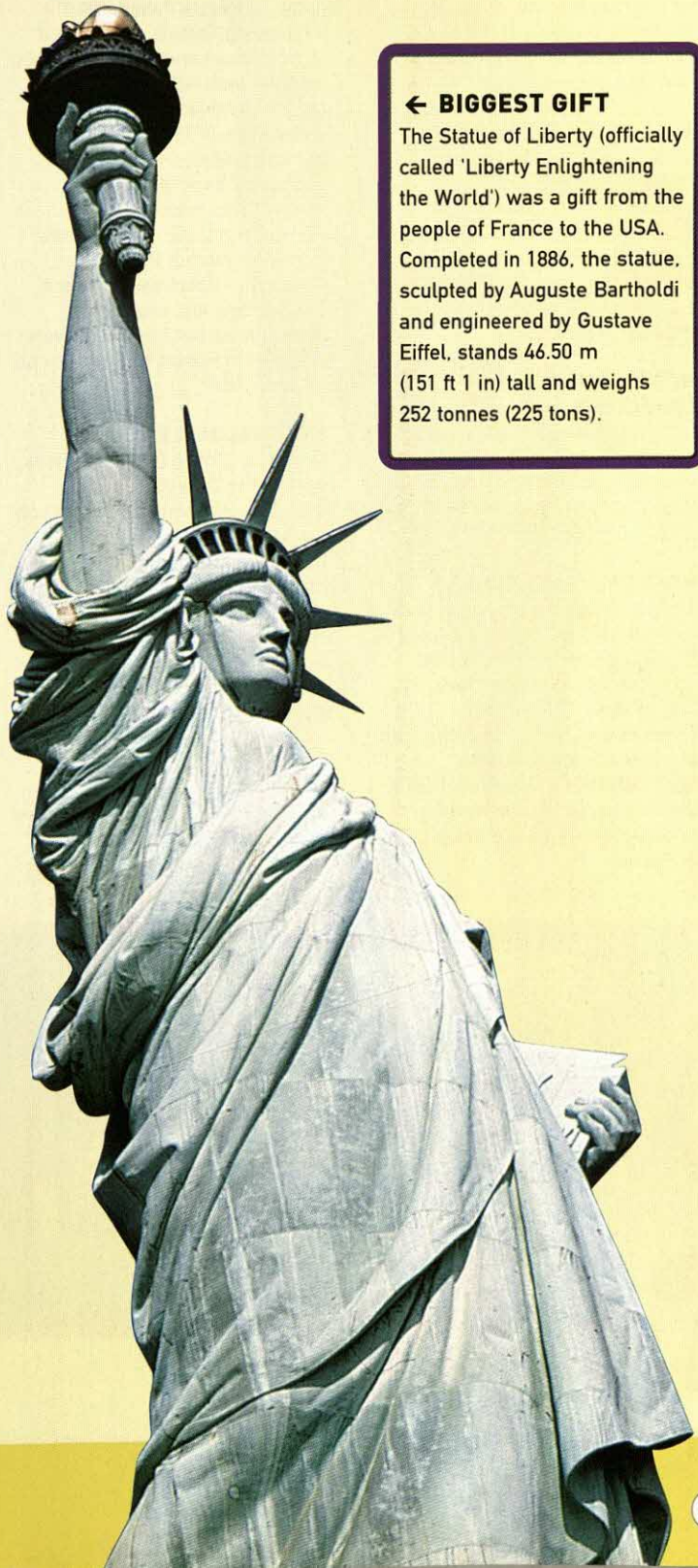
MOST SUCCESSFUL SPONSORED SWIMS
The greatest amount of money raised in a charity swim is £122,983.19 ($194,498), in 'Splash '92', organized by the Royal Bank of Scotland Swimming Club. The event was held at the Royal Commonwealth Pool, Edinburgh, UK, on 25–26 Jan 1992 and attracted 3,218 participants.

The record for an event staged at several different pools is £548,006.14 ($964,490.80), by 'Penguin Swimathon '88'. A total of 5,482 swimmers participated in the event, which was held at 43 pools throughout London, UK, from 26 to 28 Feb 1988.

BIGGEST SIMULTANEOUS BLOOD DONATION
A one-day blood donation drive organized jointly by the American Red Cross and the University of Missouri, and held at the Hernesh Center Field House, Columbia, Missouri, USA, on 7 April 1999, attracted a record 3,539 donors. The drive yielded a total of 3,155 productive units of blood – just over 1,492 litres (328 gal).

MOST MONEY RAISED BY A TELETHON EVENT
On 5-6 Sept 1998 the Jerry Lewis MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association) Telethon, which was broadcast on 200 US TV stations and shown live on the web, raised $53,116,417 (£33,119,102) in pledges and contributions. The telethon has made a record $954 million (£596 million) since it first aired in 1966.

MOST OSCAR DRESSES SOLD AT A CHARITY AUCTION
On 18 March 1999 a record 56 dresses and evening gowns that had been worn to Academy Awards ceremonies by actresses such as Elizabeth Taylor, Sharon Stone and Uma Thurman were auctioned at 'Unforgettable: Fashion of the Oscars' at Christie's, New York City, USA. A total of $786,120 (£497,355) was raised for the American Foundation For AIDS Research (AmFAR).



← BIGGEST GIFT
The Statue of Liberty (officially called 'Liberty Enlightening the World') was a gift from the people of France to the USA. Completed in 1886, the statue, sculpted by Auguste Bartholdi and engineered by Gustave Eiffel, stands 46.50 m (151 ft 1 in) tall and weighs 252 tonnes (225 tons).

Valuables 1

MOST VALUABLE PIECES OF JEWELLERY
On 14 Nov 1980 a record $7.2 million (£3.1 million) was paid for two pear-shaped diamond drop earrings, one of 58.6 carats and the other of 61 carats, at Sotheby's, Geneva, Switzerland. They were bought and sold anonymously.

MOST VALUABLE DIAMOND
A 100.10-carat pear-shaped 'D' flawless diamond was sold for $16,548,750 (£10,507,143) at Sotheby's, Geneva, Switzerland, on 17 May 1995. It was bought by Sheikh Ahmed Fitaihi for his chain of jewellery shops in Saudi Arabia.

MOST VALUABLE JEWELLERY BOX
A Cartier jewelled vanity case set with a fragment of Egyptian steel was sold at Christie's, New York City, USA, for $189,000 (£127,651) on 19 Oct 1993.

MOST VALUABLE COIN
An 1804 silver dollar, one of only 15 in existence, fetched a record $1.815 million (£1.1 million) at an auction held in New York City, USA, on 8 April 1997. The coin was part of the collection of banker Louis Eliasberg from Baltimore, Maryland, USA – the only person in the world to possess a complete set of US coins.

MOST VALUABLE MISSING ART TREASURE
The Amber Room, presented to Catherine the Great of Russia by King Friedrich Wilhelm I of Prussia in 1716, was installed in the Catherine Palace near St Petersburg, Russia. It consisted of intricately carved amber panels, together with richly decorated chairs, tables and amber ornaments. In 1941 invading Germans dismantled the room and took it back to Germany, where it was reassembled in Königsberg castle, East Prussia (now Kaliningrad, Russia). The Amber Room was later put into storage, and much of it disappeared, but fragments were returned to Russia by Germany on 29 April 2000.

MOST VALUABLE CLOCK
On 8 July 1999 a Louis XVI clock, part of the collection of the Barons Nathaniel and Albert von Rothschild, was sold at Christie's, London, UK, for a record £1,926,500 ($3,001,290).

MOST VALUABLE PEN
In Feb 1988 a Japanese collector paid $218,007 (£122,677) for the 'Anémone' fountain pen, made by French company Réden. Encrusted with 600 precious stones, including emeralds, amethysts, rubies, sapphires and onyx, it took skilled craftsmen over a year to complete.

⊙ MOST VALUABLE TYPEWRITER
Ian Fleming's gold-plated typewriter, which he commissioned from the Royal Typewriter Company, New York City, USA, in 1958, was sold for £56,250 ($89,229) at Christie's, London, UK, in May 1995.

MOST VALUABLE PIECE OF FURNITURE
On 5 July 1990 the 18th-century Italian Badminton Cabinet, owned by the Duke of Beaufort, was sold at Christie's, London, UK, for £8.58 million ($15.1 million) – a record price for a single piece of furniture.

MOST VALUABLE CHAIRS
A pair of chairs designed by Robert Adam and built by Thomas Chippendale were sold to an anonymous buyer at Christie's, London, UK, for £1,706,500 ($2,762,330) on 3 July 1997.

MOST VALUABLE CARPET
A 16th-century tabriz medallion carpet, part of the Rothschild collection, was sold for £1,596,500 ($2,488,943) at Christie's, London, UK, on 8 July 1999.

MOST VALUABLE SKULL
The skull of Emanuel Swedenborg, the Swedish philosopher and theologian, was bought in London, UK, by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for £5,500 ($10,560) on 6 March 1978.

MOST VALUABLE TOOTH
In 1816 a tooth belonging to Sir Isaac Newton was sold in London, UK, for £730 ($3,241). It was purchased by a nobleman, who had it set in a ring.

MOST VALUABLE HAIR
On 18 Feb 1988 a lock of hair belonging to the British naval hero Lord Nelson sold for a

⊙ MOST VALUABLE DINKY TOY
A very rare green 1937 Dinky Bentalls store delivery van with yellow upper side panels and a white roof was sold for £12,650 ($19,355) at Christie's, London, UK, on 14 Oct 1994.

record £5,575 ($10,035) at an auction in Crewkerne, Somerset, UK. It was bought by a bookseller from Cirencester, Glos, UK.

MOST VALUABLE STAMP COLLECTION
On 3 Nov 1993 Japanese engineer-industrialist Hiroyuki Kanai bought a 188-page collection of classic Mauritian stamps for a record $10,135,134 (£6,756,756), at an auction held in Geneva, Switzerland.

MOST VALUABLE SINGLE STAMP
A Swedish treskilling was sold for £1.4 million ($2.3 million) in Geneva, Switzerland, in Nov 1996.

⊙ MOST VALUABLE WRISTWATCH
A 1922 18-carat gold gentleman's wristwatch, produced by Patek Phillippe, sold for $1,918,387 (£1,188,060) at Antiquorum Auctioneers, Geneva, Switzerland, on 14 Nov 1999. It was bought by a Middle Eastern collector.

MOST VALUABLE PAPERWEIGHT
On 26 June 1990 $258,500 (£151,223) was paid for a glass paperweight – a mid-1840s Clichy Millefiori basket with no handle – at Sotheby's, New York City, USA.

MOST VALUABLE THIMBLE
On 13 Dec 1992 a late-16th-century gold jewelled thimble was sold for £20,070 ($31,359) at Phillips, Solihull, W Midlands, UK. It was reputed to have belonged to Queen Elizabeth I.

MOST VALUABLE CELLO
On 22 June 1988 a Stradivarius cello was sold for a record £682,000 ($1,213,960) at Sotheby's, London, UK. The cello, known as 'The Cholmondeley', was made in Cremona, Italy, in approximately 1698.

MOST VALUABLE PIANO
The highest price ever paid for a piano is £716,500 ($1.2 million), for a Steinway created under the direction of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema. It sold at Christie's, London, UK, on 7 Nov 1997.

MOST VALUABLE GUITAR
A 1956 Fender Stratocaster 'Brownie' belonging to Eric Clapton sold for $497,500 (£301,972) at Christie's, New York City, USA, on 24 June 1999.

→ MOST VALUABLE POP STAR CLOTHING
An outfit worn by Geri Halliwell for the Spice Girls' 1997 Brit Awards performance was sold for a record £41,320 ($66,112) at Sotheby's, London, UK, on 16 Sept 1998. It was bought by Peter Morton, the owner of the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

Valuables 2

⊙ MOST VALUABLE FILM POSTER
A poster for the Universal film *The Mummy* (USA, 1932), which starred Boris Karloff, sold for a record $453,500 (£282,431) at Sotheby's, New York City, USA, on 7 March 1997.

MOST VALUABLE PAINTING
Portrait Of Dr Gachet by Vincent Van Gogh sold at Christie's, New York City, USA, for a record $82.5 million (£49.1 million) on 15 May 1990.

MOST VALUABLE PRINT
Diehard by US artist Robert Rauschenberg was sold at Sotheby's, New York City, USA, for $1.6 million (£963,855) on 2 May 1989.

MOST VALUABLE SCULPTURE
The Three Graces by Antonio Canova was jointly purchased by the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, and the National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh, both UK, for £7.5 million ($11.5 million) in 1994.

The highest price fetched by a sculpture at auction is $11,250,000 (£6,987,578), paid for Edgar Degas' *Petite Danseuse De Quatorze Ans* at Sotheby's, New York City, USA, on 11 Nov 1999.

MOST VALUABLE PEN AND INK DRAWING
Oliviers Avec Les Alpilles Au Fond by Vincent Van Gogh was sold at Sotheby's, London, UK, for a record £5,281,500 ($8,578,740) on 7 Dec 1999.

MOST VALUABLE POSTER
A poster designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh to advertise an art exhibition at the Glasgow Institute of Fine Arts, Glasgow, UK, in 1895 sold for a record £68,200 ($103,357) at Christie's, London, UK, in Feb 1993.

MOST VALUABLE FILM PROP
The *Maltese Falcon*, a vital prop in the 1941 Humphrey Bogart film of the same name, was sold for $398,500 (£265,666) at Christie's, New York City, USA, in 1994. In Jan 1995 it was resold to a secret buyer for an undisclosed price.

MOST VALUABLE OSCAR
David O Selznick's Oscar for *Gone With The Wind* (USA, 1939) was bought by Michael Jackson for $1,542,000 (£963,750) at Sotheby's, New York City, USA, on 12 June 1999.

MOST VALUABLE TELEGRAM
A telegram sent by former Soviet president Nikita Khrushchev to Yuri Gagarin on 12 April 1961, congratulating him on being the first person in Space, sold for $68,500 (£45,900) at Sotheby's, New York City, USA, on 11 Dec 1993. It was bought by Alberto Bolaffi of Turin, Italy.

MOST VALUABLE BOOK
An original four-volume subscriber set of John Audubon's *The Birds of America* was sold for $8,802,500 (£5,501,563) at Christie's, New York City, USA, on 10 March 2000.

MOST VALUABLE LETTERS
A letter written and signed by Abraham Lincoln on 9 Jan 1863, in which he answers criticisms made of the Emancipation Proclamation, was sold for a

⊙ MOST VALUABLE FILM COSTUME
Both the blue and white gingham dress and the red slippers worn by Judy Garland for her role as Dorothy in *The Wizard Of Oz* (USA, 1939) reached record prices at auction. The former was sold for £199,500 ($324,188) at Christie's, London, UK, on 9 Dec 1999, and the latter fetched $666,000 (£452,815) at Christie's, New York City, USA, on 24 May 2000.

⊙ MOST VALUABLE PHOTOGRAPH

Grande Vague - Séte, taken by French photographer Gustave Le Gray in around 1855, was sold at Sotheby's, London, UK, for £507,500 ($832,300) on 27 Oct 1999. It was bought by an anonymous bidder.

record $748,000 (£409,683) at Christie's, New York City, USA, on 5 Dec 1991.

A letter written by Ronald Reagan in which he praises Frank Sinatra was sold for $12,500 (£6,188) at the Hamilton Galleries, California, USA, on 22 Jan 1981 – a record price for a letter signed by a living person.

MOST VALUABLE ATLAS
A 1492 version of Ptolemy's *Cosmographia* was sold for $1,925,000 (£1,666,666) at Sotheby's, New York City, USA, on 31 Jan 1990.

MOST VALUABLE COMIC
A first-edition copy of *Action Comics*, published in June 1938 and featuring the first appearance of Superman, was sold for $100,000 (£68,771) in 1997.

MOST VALUABLE ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPT
A 16th-century prayer book, part of the collection of the Barons Nathaniel and Albert von Rothschild, was sold at Christie's, London, UK, for £8,581,500 ($13,547,614) on 8 July 1999.

MOST VALUABLE LYRICS
In Feb 1998 the lyrics to *Candle In The Wind 1997*, signed by their writer Bernie Taupin and the song's composer Elton John, were sold for $442,500 (£240,963) in Los Angeles, California, USA. The song was performed at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales in Sept 1997.

MOST VALUABLE CAMERA
An 1882 Enjalbert Pocket Revolver camera, made with real revolver parts, was sold at Christie's, London, UK, for £56,250 ($87,275) on 31 Aug 1995.

MOST VALUABLE MUSIC BOX
A Swiss music box, made for a Persian prince in 1901, was sold for £20,900 ($27,128) at Sotheby's, London, UK, on 23 Jan 1985.

↓ MOST VALUABLE TEDDY BEAR

A Steiff bear named 'Teddy Girl' was sold for £110,000 ($170,830) – more than 18 times the guide price – at Christie's, London, UK, on 5 Dec 1994. It was bought by Japanese businessman Yoshihiro Sekiguchi.

Valuables 3

⊙ MOST VALUABLE PAIR OF JEANS
In March 1997 Levi Strauss & Co paid a vintage denim dealer in New York City, USA, a record $25,000 (£15,616) for a pair of Levi 501 jeans that are believed to have been made between 1890 and 1901.

MOST VALUABLE FOOTBALL PROGRAMME
A programme for the 1908 FA Charity Shield replay between Manchester United and Queens Park Rangers was sold at Old Trafford, Manchester, UK, for a record £8,050 ($12,759) on 10 April 2000. It was bought by the Manchester United Museum.

MOST VALUABLE CRICKETING MEMORABILIA
A first edition of *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*, dating from 1864, was sold at Phillips, London, UK, for £7,475 ($11,989) in June 1999.

MOST VALUABLE BASEBALL
The highest price paid for a baseball is $3,054,000 (£1,848,780), by Todd McFarlane at Guernsey's, New York City, USA, on 12 Jan 1999. The baseball had been hit by Mark McGwire of the St Louis Cardinals in Sept 1998 for a major league record of 70 home runs in a season.

MOST VALUABLE BASEBALL GLOVE
The baseball glove worn by Lou Gehrig for his final baseball game on 30 April 1939 was sold for a record $389,500 (£236,778) at Sotheby's, New York City, USA, on 29 Sept 1999.

MOST VALUABLE TENNIS RACKET
A Slazenger lawn tennis racket used at Wimbledon by Fred Perry sold at Christie's, London, UK, for £23,000 ($37,724) in June 1997.

MOST VALUABLE BICYCLE
A diamond-frame safety bicycle dating from 1891 was sold at Phillips, London, UK, for £105,000 ($170,310) in Aug 1999, beating the previous record price for a bicycle by over 200%.

MOST VALUABLE ITEM OF HEADWEAR
In Nov 1981 a native North American Tlingit Kiksadi ceremonial frog helmet dating from approximately 1600 was sold for $66,000 (£34,667) in New York City, USA. It was bought by the Alaska State Museum, Juneau, Alaska, USA.

MOST VALUABLE DRESS
The flesh-coloured beaded Jean Louis gown worn by Marilyn Monroe when she sang 'Happy Birthday' to President Kennedy in May 1962 sold for $1.15 million (£701,000) at Christie's, New York City, USA, on [illegible] Oct 1999. It was bought by Robert Schagrin and Peter Siegel of Gotta Have It! Collectibles, New York City.

⊙ MOST VALUABLE PEZ DISPENSERS
A Mickey Mouse softhead, a one-piece shiny gold elephant and a headless dispenser embossed with the words PEZ-HAAS were sold for $6,000 (£3,6[illegible]) each – a total of $18,000 ([illegible],860) – by David Welch, author and Pez dealer, in May 1998.

⊙ MOST VALUABLE FOOTBALL SHIRT
A red No 6 football shirt, taken by Bobby Moore (second from left) as a spare to the 1966 World Cup final between England and West Germany, sold for a record £44,000 ($71,650) at Wolverhampton Wanderers' Molineux ground, W Midlands, UK, on 21 Sept 1999. The shirt was auctioned as part of a collection belonging to ex-England trainer Harold Shepherdson.

MOST VALUABLE POP MEMORABILIA
John Lennon's 1965 Phantom V Rolls Royce was sold for $2,229,000 (£1,768,000) at Sotheby's, New York City, USA, on 29 June 1985.

MOST VALUABLE ZIPPO LIGHTER
An original 1933 Zippo lighter was sold for $10,000 (£6,033) by Ira Pilossof on 12 July 1998. The lighter was an early 1933 model without any slash marks on the two corners – all later models had these corner marks. This is the first Zippo model ever produced (formerly referred to as a 1932) and is the most sought after by Zippo collectors.

⊙ MOST VALUABLE BOXING MEMORABILIA
A black and white robe worn by Muhammad Ali before the 1974 'Rumble in the Jungle' fight against George Foreman fetched $157,947 (£97,800) at a sale in Beverly Hills, California, USA, in Oct 1997.

MOST VALUABLE MICKEY MOUSE TOY
A rare clockwork Mickey Mouse motorcycle made in approximately 1939, sold for a record £51,000 ($83,650) at Christie's, London, UK, in June 1997.

MOST VALUABLE WAX DOLL
A rare Lucy Peck wax doll modelled as the young Queen Victoria sold for £8,625 ($13,879) at Christie's, London, UK, in May 1999.

MOST VALUABLE KALEIDOSCOPE
An English kaleidoscope in a mahogany case, made in approximately 1830, sold for £45,500 ($74,934) at Christie's, London, UK, in Nov 1999.

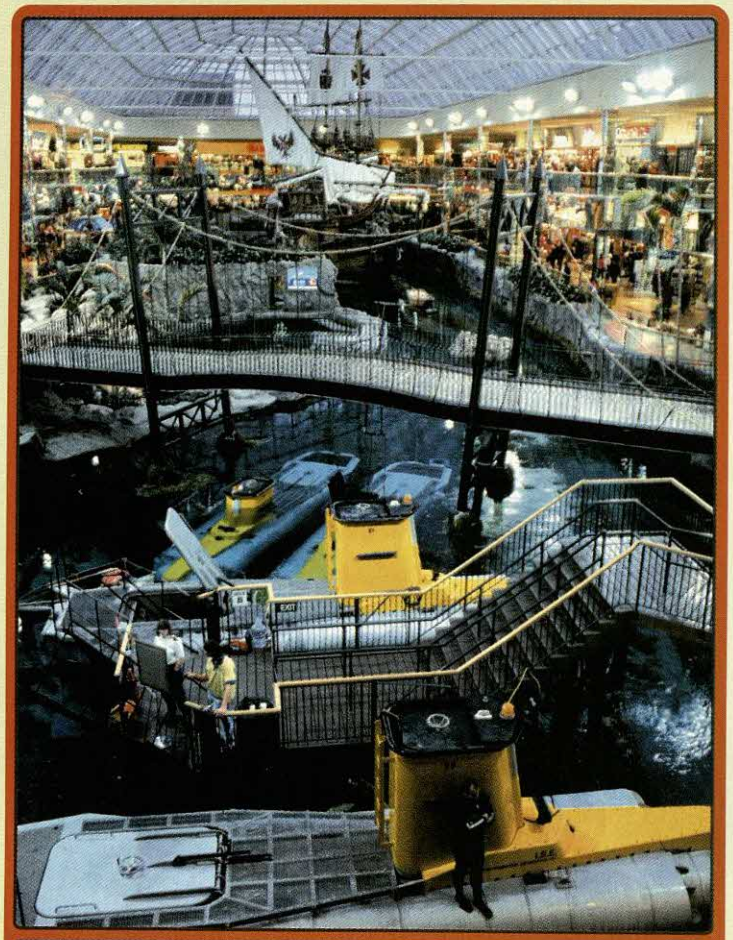
MOST VALUABLE GI JOE
On 19 Aug 1994, at an auction held at Christie's, New York City, USA, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of GI Joe, a unique GI Joe fighter pilot action figure sold for a record $5,750 (£3,734).

MOST VALUABLE CHRISTMAS CARD
A Christmas card hand-drawn by John Lennon and addressed to Brian Epstein, the Beatles' then manager, sold for a record £5,405 ($8,502) at Christies, London, UK, on 27 April 2000. The card featured two ink cartoon emus.

MOST VALUABLE ILLUSTRATED MANUSCRIPT
The *Codex Leicester*, an illustrated manuscript in which Leonardo da Vinci predicted the invention of the submarine and the steam engine, was sold to Bill Gates for a record $30.8 million (£19,388,141) at Christie's, New York City, USA, on 11 Nov 1994. It is the only da Vinci manuscript in private hands.

→ MOST VALUABLE BIKINI
A hand-sewn, diamond-encrusted bikini made by Prestons of Windsor, Berks, UK, has been valued at a record £123,409.90 ($194,458.97). It was unveiled on 22 March 2000 during Windsor Fashion Week, when a diamond and setting worth £2,000 ($3,150) were being offered to the first person to guess its value correctly. Here, the bikini is modelled by Susan Sangster.

Shopping 1



⊙ BIGGEST SHOPPING CENTRE

The world's largest shopping centre is the $1.1-billion (£690-million) West Edmonton Mall in Alberta, Canada, which was opened on 15 Sept 1981 and was finally completed four years later. Covering an area of 483,000 m² (5.2 million ft²), it encompasses over 800 stores and services, as well as 11 major department stores. The mall also has the world's biggest car park, with room for 20,000 vehicles and overflow facilities for another 10,000.

LONGEST MALL
A mall inside the shopping centre at Milton Keynes, Bucks, UK, is 720 m (2,360 ft) long.

BIGGEST UNDERGROUND SHOPPING COMPLEX
The PATH Walkway in Toronto, Canada, has 27 km (16.8 miles of shopping arcades, with 371,600 m² (4 million ft²) of retail space.

OLDEST SHOPPING ARCADE
The Galleria Vittorio Emanuele in Milan, Italy, was designed in 1861 and was first opened to the public in 1867.

BIGGEST OPEN-AIR MARKET
The San José flea market sits on 48.6 ha (120 acres) of land in the heart of Silicon Valley, California, USA. It was officially opened in 1960 on an abandoned cattle feed lot, when it had 20 stallholders and about 100 customers. Today it averages more than 6,000 stallholders and 80,000 visitors each week, and has a management staff of 150.

BIGGEST WHOLESALE MARKET
The Dallas Market Center on Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Texas, USA, covers an area of nearly 641,000 m² (6.9 million ft²) in five separate buildings. It houses some 2,580 permanent showrooms displaying the merchandise of more than 50,000 manufacturers, and attracts 800,000 buyers each year to its 50 markets and trade shows.

BIGGEST DEPARTMENT STORE
Macy's, an 11-storey building occupying an entire block in Herald Square, New York City, USA, covers an area of 198,500 m² (2.15 million ft²). The company has a chain of department stores across the USA and was one of the first major retailers to place such stores in shopping centres.

MOST SHOPPERS IN A DAY
The largest number of visitors to a single department store in one day is an estimated 1.07 million, to the Nextage Shanghai, China, on 20 Dec 1995.

GREATEST SALES PER UNIT AREA
The record for the greatest sales in relation to area of selling space is held by Richer Sounds plc, a British hi-fi retail chain. Sales at its branch in London Bridge Walk, UK, reached a peak of £195,426/m² ($27,830/ft²) in the year ending 31 Jan 1994.

BIGGEST FASHION RETAIL CHAIN
Gap Inc has almost 2,900 shops selling its clothing in the USA, the UK, Canada, France, Germany and Japan. Founded in San Francisco, California, USA, in 1969, the company had sales of $11.6 billion (£7.7 billion) in 1999.

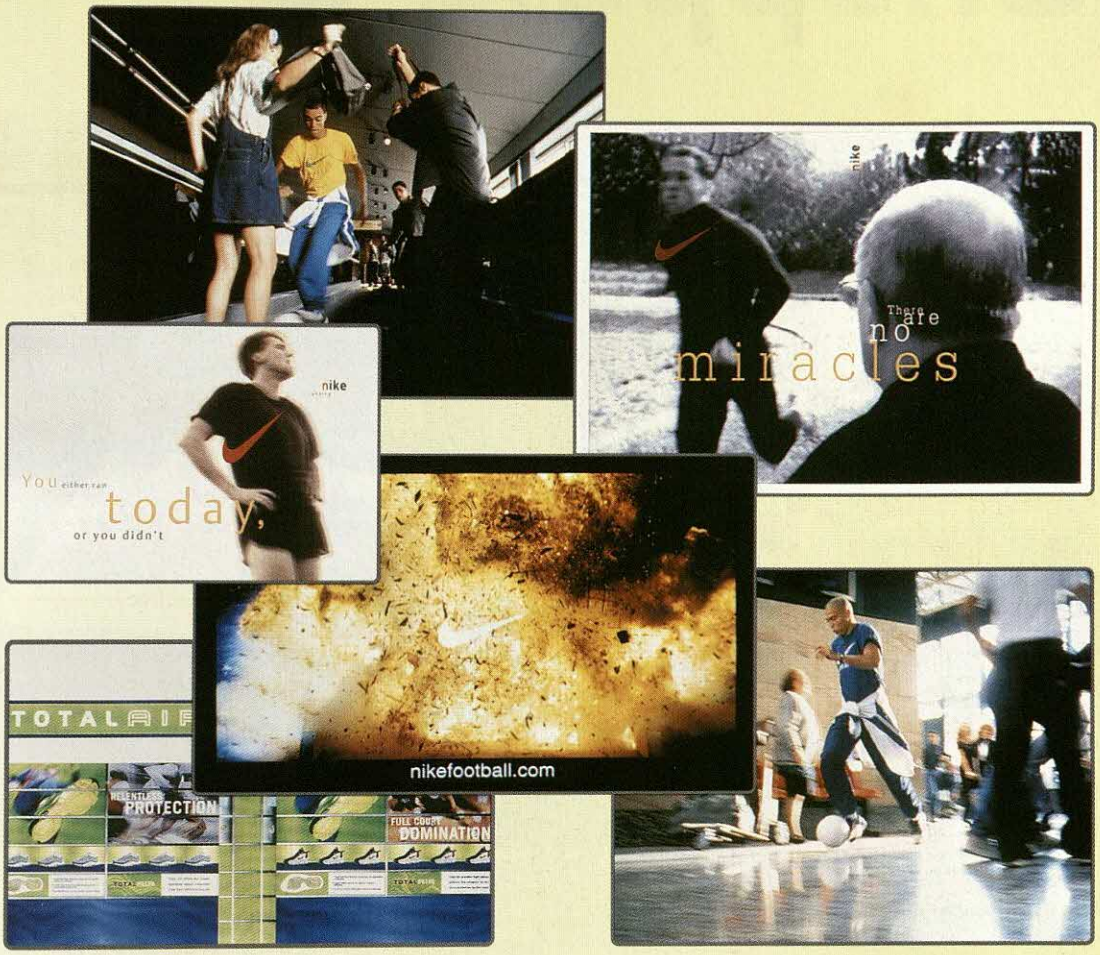
BEST-SELLING CLOTHING BRAND
Levi Strauss is the world's biggest brand-named clothing manufacturer. Its Levi's, Dockers and Slates brands are sold in more than 30,000 retail outlets in 60 countries, and its sales totalled $6 billion (£3.7 billion) in 1999.

⊙ BIGGEST RETAILING FIRM

The world's largest retailing firm is Wal-Mart Stores, Inc, founded by Sam Walton in Bentonville, Arkansas, USA, in 1962. The company had revenues of $165 billion (£103.1 billion) and profits of $8,419 million (£5,093 million) in the year ending 31 Jan 2000, and by March 2000 had 4,003 retail outlets in 10 countries, employing 1.14 million people.

→ BIGGEST SPORTSWEAR COMPANY

The sportswear giant Nike was founded in 1972 in Oregon, USA, by Bill Bowerman and Phil Knight. The company had revenues of $8.78 billion (£5.16 billion) in 1999, making it the 197th largest company on the *Fortune* 500 list. Nike currently controls more than 45% of the US sportswear market.



BIGGEST FASHION FRANCHISE

The Benetton Group (Italy) operates in 120 countries through its 7,000 franchised stores and company-owned megastores. Its clothing consists primarily of knitwear and sportswear, and it is the largest consumer of wool in the garment sector. Today it has nine factories in different parts of the world. Its sales totalled $1.9 billion (£1.2 billion) in 1999.

BIGGEST ELECTRONICS RETAILER

Best Buy Co Inc (USA) is the world's biggest retailer of consumer electronics, audio-video equipment, entertainment software and domestic appliances, with 1999 sales topping $10 billion (£6.2 billion).

MOST ELECTRONICS RETAIL OUTLETS

Radio Shack has more than 6,900 stores and franchises selling electronics and computers across the USA.

BIGGEST BOOKSHOP

The world's biggest bookshop is the Barnes & Noble Bookstore on Fifth Avenue, New York City, USA. It covers an area of 14,330 m² (154,250 ft²) and has 20.71 km (12.87 miles) of shelving.

BIGGEST MENSWEAR STORE

Slater Menswear in Glasgow, UK, covers an area of 2,600 m² (28,000 ft²) and has about 14,000 suits in stock at any one time.

BIGGEST JUMBLE SALE

The White Elephant Sale at the Cleveland Convention Center, Ohio, USA, raised $427,935.21 (£285,786) over two days from 18 to 19 Oct 1983.

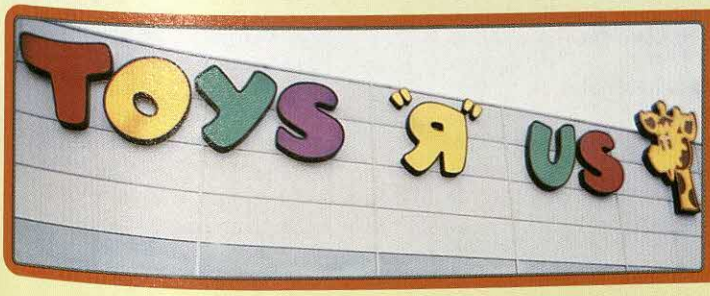
The greatest amount of money raised at a one-day jumble sale is $214,085.99 (£142,686), at the 62nd one-day jumble sale organized by the Winnetka Congregational Church, Winnetka, Illinois, USA, on 12 May 1994.

MOST EXPENSIVE SHOPPING STREET

Fifth Avenue in New York City, USA, is the most expensive street in the world on which to rent shop space, at $580/ft² (£3,767/m²). It is followed in cost by 57th Street, also in New York City ($500/ft² or £3,251/m²), and Oxford Street in London, UK (£2,594/m² or $400/ft²).

MOST CREDIT CARDS

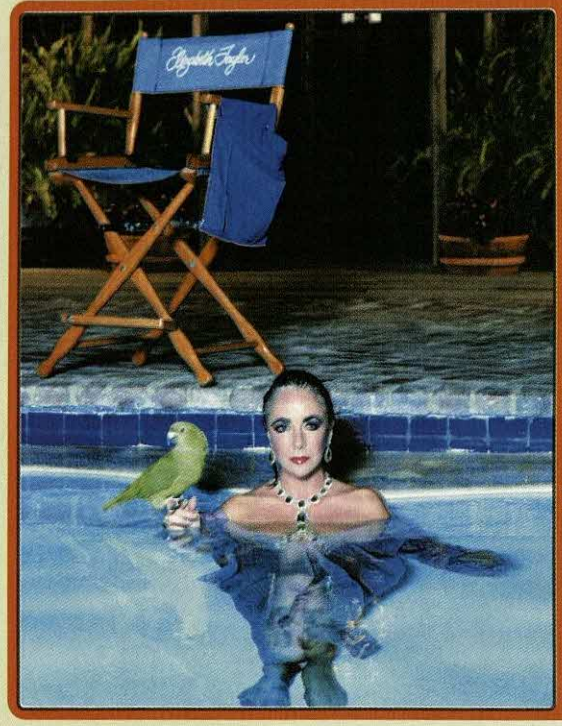
Walter Cavanagh of Santa Clara, California, USA, has 1,397 individual credit cards, which together are worth more than $1.65 million (£1 million) in credit. He keeps them in the world's longest wallet, which is 76.2 m (250 ft) in length and weighs 17.49 kg (38 lb 8 oz).



⊙ BIGGEST TOY RETAILER

The world's largest toy retailer is Toys 'R' Us Inc, based in Paramus, New Jersey, USA. It currently has 1,552 stores in 27 countries.

Shopping 2



⊙ MOST EXPENSIVE PHOTOGRAPHIC BOOK
A first edition hardback of *Sumo*, a 480-page book of photographs by Helmut Newton (Australia) retails for a record $1,500 (£945). The book is published by Taschen-Verlag (Germany) and contains 400 photographs, including images of Elizabeth Taylor (far left) and Faye Dunaway. It weighs 30 kg (66 lb) and measures 50.8 cm x 71 cm (20 in x 28 in), being so large that it needs its own stand. Newton is seen on the right of the black and white picture, along with publisher Benedikt Taschen.

MOST EXPENSIVE WATCH
In 1999 Gianni Vive Sulman of London, UK, produced a watch that cost more than $520,000 (£318,000). Only five are to be made every year.

MOST EXPENSIVE SWATCH WATCH
A limited edition Swatch – one of only 120 made – designed in 1985 by French artist Christian Chapiron (known as Kiki Picasso) sold at auction at Sotheby's, Milan, Italy, for $45,000 (£35,000) in 1989. When they were first released, the watches were given away for free.

MOST EXPENSIVE MAGAZINE
Visionaire magazine, created by Stephan Gan (USA), is the most expensive magazine in the world. Prices for each copy start at $100 (£63), with one issue, available in its own Louis Vuitton case, fetching $5,000 (£3,150) on the black market. The most sought-after edition of all is No 20, which was edited by designer Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons and became an instant collector's item as it came with a free toile (muslin copy) of one of her frocks. For the second issue, designer Martin Margeila contributed 1,000 bags of confetti as a giveaway.

MOST EXPENSIVE SWISS ARMY KNIFE
An 18-carat gold Swiss army knife produced by Swiss jeweller Luzius Elmer currently retails for $4,299 (£2,678).

MOST EXPENSIVE WOOL
The highest price ever paid for wool is $3,629.70 per lb (£5,070 per kg), a record set on 11 Jan 1995 when Aoki International Co Ltd of Yokohama, Japan, bought a bale of extra superfine wool with an average fibre diameter of 13.8 microns at an auction in Geelong, Victoria, Australia.

MOST EXPENSIVE WALLET
The world's most expensive wallet is a platinum-cornered, diamond-studded crocodile creation made by Louis Quatorze of Paris, France, and Mikimoto of Tokyo, Japan. It sold for $75,000 (£56,000) in Sept 1984.

MOST EXPENSIVE PERFUME
A cologne called Andron, which contains a trace of the attractant pheromone androstenol, was marketed by Jovan of Chicago, Illinois, USA, for $2,750 per oz (£487 per g) in March 1984. Retail prices of fragrances tend to be fixed with an eye to public relations rather than the market cost of ingredients and packaging.

MOST EXPENSIVE PINBALL MACHINE
Aaron Spelling, a pinball machine named after the US TV producer, was made in Feb 1992 and was reported to have been sold for $120,000 (£68,000) in Los Angeles, California, USA.

MOST EXPENSIVE LOUDSPEAKERS
Wilson Audio Modular Monitor (WAMM) system speakers cost a record £250,000 ($405,512) per set. They are specially created by a Wilson designer, who calls on the buyer and develops the speakers in accordance with their needs.

MOST EXPENSIVE MOBILE PHONE
A mobile phone designed by David Morris International of London, UK, sold for £66,629 ($110,604) in 1996. Made entirely from 18-carat gold, it has a keypad encrusted with pink and white diamonds.

MOST EXPENSIVE ANIMAL
Racehorses are by far the most expensive animals. The record price paid for a yearling is $13.1 million (£10 million), by Robert Sangster and partners for Seattle Dancer on 23 July 1985 in Kentucky, USA.

⊙ MOST EXPENSIVE PEN

'La Modernista Diamonds', a pen made by Swiss company Caran d'Ache, went on sale in Harrods, London, UK, for £169,000 ($265,000) in 1999. Created in memory of architect Antoni Gaudí, the rhodium-coated solid silver pen has an 18-carat gold nib and is pavé-set with 5,072 diamonds and 96 half-cut rubies.

MOST EXPENSIVE CAT

Cato, a generation two Bengal cat, was bought for £25,000 ($41,435) by Cindy Jackson of London, UK, in Feb 1998. The cat was sold by breeder Lord C Esmond Gay of Bedfordshire, UK.

MOST EXPENSIVE INSECT

On 19 Aug 1999 an 8-cm (3-in) stag beetle (*Dorcus hopei*) was sold for a record $90,000 (£56,000) at a shop in Tokyo, Japan. It is believed to have been bought by a 36-year-old company president, but he has refused to be identified for fear of being targeted by thieves.

MOST EXPENSIVE TREE

The highest price ever paid for a tree is $51,000 (£18,214), for a single Starkspur Golden Delicious apple tree from Yakima, Washington, USA. The tree was bought by a nursery in 1959.

↓ MOST EXPENSIVE MINI

The Mini Limo, a one-of-a-kind commissioned by Rover Group and built by John Cooper Garages (UK), was sold for a record £50,000 ($80,000) in Sept 1997. The two-door car boasts an £8,000 ($12,836) Alpine Mini-Disc sound system and has seats worth £6,000 ($9,627).

Food & Drink 1

MOST EXPENSIVE SPIRIT
On 9 Dec 1996 an anonymous Scottish businessman paid a record £15,000 ($24,600) for a bottle of 60-year-old Macallan whisky after taking part in a sealed-bid auction. The distillery rarely produces whisky of this age and, when it does, only releases 10 bottles, one of which it keeps. Another is earmarked for charity, and the rest are sold by the bidding method.

MOST EXPENSIVE WINE
The most expensive commercially available wine is 1787 Chateau d'Yquem Sauternes, which costs between $56,000 and $64,000 (£36,300 and £41,530) per bottle.

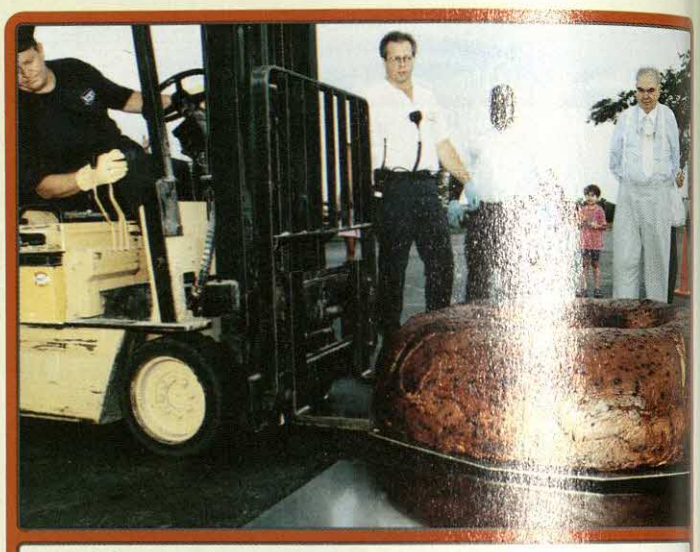
STRONGEST ALCOHOL
When Estonia was independent between the two world wars, the Estonian Liquor Monopoly marketed 98% (196 proof) alcohol distilled from potatoes.

STRONGEST BEERS
Samuel Adams Triple Bock, brewed by the Boston Beer Company, Massachusetts, USA, has an alcohol volume of 17.5%.

Baz's Super Brew, which is brewed by Barrie Parish and sold in one-third measures at The Parish Brewery, Somerby, Leics, UK, has an alcohol volume of 23%. However, it is rarely brewed these days.

MOST EXPENSIVE SPICE
Prices for wild ginseng from China's Chan Pak Mountain area peaked at a record $23,000/oz (£380/g) in Nov 1979 in Hong Kong. Total annual exports of the spice – believed by many to be an aphrodisiac – from Jilin Province do not exceed 4 kg (8.75 lb).

HOTTEST SPICE
The world's hottest spice is Red Savina Habanero, which was developed by GNS Spices of Walnut, California, USA. It has a rating of 350,000–570,000 on the Scoville scale (an index for measuring the hotness of chillies), compared with a rating of 30,000–50,000 for cayenne pepper and one of 2,500–5,000 for jalapeño.



⊙ BIGGEST BAGEL
On 23 July 1998 Lender's Bagels of Mattoon, Illinois, USA, made a blueberry bagel that was 34.9 cm (13.75 in) high, and a diameter of 149.86 cm (59 in) and weighed a record 323.86 kg (714 lb).

⊙ BIGGEST SANDWICH
In Aug 1999 representatives from Marks & Spencer and McVities Prepared Foods created a pre-packed tuna and cucumber sandwich 'round' that measured a record 2.13 m x 2.13 m x 3.02 m (7 ft x 7 ft x 9 ft 11 in).

BIGGEST PUMPKIN
A pumpkin weighing 513 kg (1,131 lb) was grown from Atlantic Giant seed stock by Gerry Checkon of Altoona, Pennsylvania, USA. It was weighed at the Pennsylvania Pumpkin Bowl on 2 Oct 1999.

BIGGEST PANCAKE
The world's biggest pancake was 15.01 m (49 ft 3 in) in diameter and 2.5 cm (1 in) deep, with a weight of 3 tonnes (2.95 tons). It was made and flipped at Rochdale, Greater Manchester, UK, on 13 Aug 1994 as part of celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of the Co-operative movement.

LONGEST SUSHI ROLL
On 12 Oct 1997 a sushi roll with a total length of 1,000 m (3,281 ft) was made by 600 members of the Nikopoka Festival Committee in Yoshii, Japan.

LONGEST SAUSAGE
The longest continuous sausage on record extended a distance of 46.3 km (28.77 miles). It was made by MM Meat Shops in partnership with JM Schneider Inc at Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, on 28–29 April 1995.

BIGGEST PIZZA
A pizza with a diameter of 37.4 m (122 ft 8 in) was baked at Norwood Hypermarket, Norwood, South Africa, on 8 Dec 1990.

BIGGEST PAELLA
A paella with a diameter of 20 m (65 ft 7 in) was made by Juan Carlos Galbis and a team of helpers in Valencia, Spain, on 8 March 1992. It was eaten by 100,000 people.

BIGGEST OMELETTE
On 19 March 1994 representatives of Swatch cooked a 160,000-egg omelette with an area of 128.5 m² (1,383 ft²) in Yokohama, Japan.

BIGGEST LOLLIPOP
A peppermint-flavoured lollipop that weighed 1.37 tonnes (1.35 tons) was made by the staff of BonBon, Holme Olstrup, Denmark, on 22 April 1994.

BIGGEST ICE CREAM SUNDAE
The largest ice cream sundae on record weighed 24.9 tonnes (24.5 tons). It was made by Palm Dairies Ltd under the supervision of Mike Rogiani in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, on 24 July 1988.

BIGGEST CHINESE DUMPLING
The Hong Kong Union of Chinese Food and Culture Ltd and the Southern District Committee made a 480-kg (1,058-lb) dumpling on 5 July 1997 to celebrate the return of Hong Kong to China.

BIGGEST CURRY
On 17 May 1998 a curry weighing 2,653 kg (5,849 lb) was made by a team from The Raj Restaurant, Maldon, Essex, UK, under the supervision of Mafiz Ali. It was divided into 13,500 portions.

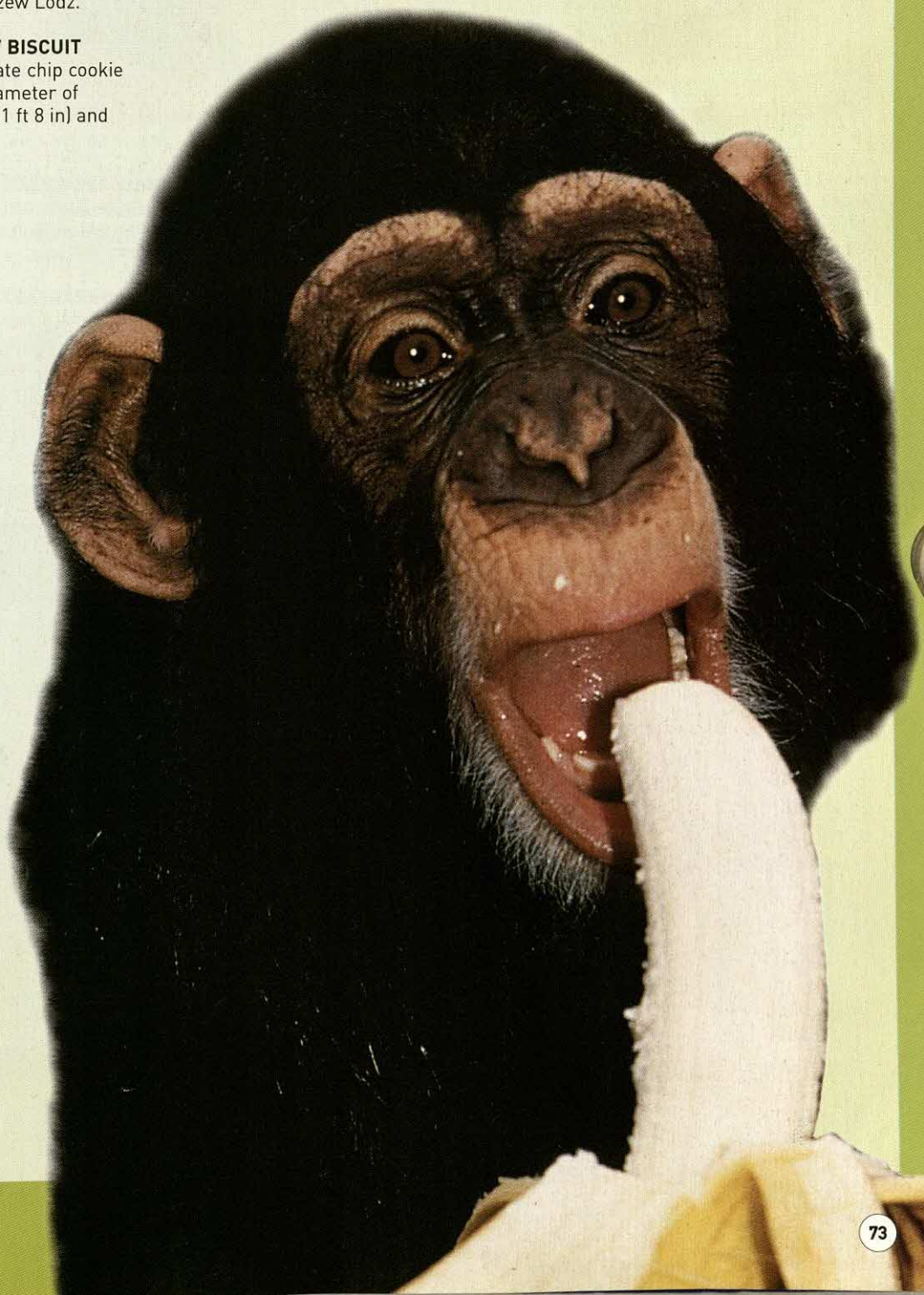
LONGEST STRING OF GARLIC
A 52.1-m-long (171-ft) string of garlic was made by a team of women from the village of Cornellá Del Terri, Spain, at the Second Fair of Garlic in Cornellá on 12 Oct 1997.

MOST CANDLES ON A CAKE
On 27 Oct 1996 staff at the Polish daily newspaper *Express Ilustrowany* produced a cake with 900 candles on it, to celebrate the 900th goal scored by Polish football club Widzew Lódz.

BIGGEST BISCUIT
A chocolate chip cookie with a diameter of 24.9 m (81 ft 8 in) and an area of 486.95 m² (5,241.5 ft²) was made by Cookie Time in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 2 April 1996.

BIGGEST TACO
The world's biggest taco was 4.57 m (15 ft) long, 73.6 cm (29 in) wide and weighed 339.14 kg (747 lb). Created on 5 May 1999 in Houston, Texas, USA, by employees of La Ranchera Food Products Inc and La Tapatia Taquería, it was filled with 253.6 kg (559 lb) of meat, 20.9 kg (46 lb) of tomatoes, 16.8 kg (37 lb) of onions and 8.2 kg (18 lb) of coriander.

→ MOST POPULAR FRUIT
The banana (*Musa sapientum*), together with its relative the plantain (*Musa paradisiaca*), is the most consumed fruit in the world. It is also the fifth most important agricultural commodity in terms of international trade, coming after cereals, sugar, coffee and cocoa.



Food & Drink 2

⊙ BIGGEST SANCOCHO
The world's biggest sancocho (a Latin American meat and vegetable stew) was made in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, on 1 Jan 2000 by staff from the Playa Dorada hotel complex. The sancocho, which took seven hours to cook, was divided into 10,020 portions, each weighing 230 g (8 oz).

MOST EXPENSIVE MEAL PER HEAD
In Sept 1997 three diners at Le Gavroche, London, UK, spent a record £13,091.20 ($20,945.92) on one meal. Only £216.20 ($345.92) went on food; cigars and spirits accounted for £845 ($1,352) and the remaining £12,030 ($19,248) went on six bottles of wine. The most expensive bottle, a 1985 La Romanée-Conti costing £4,950 ($7,920), proved 'a bit young', so they gave it to the restaurant staff.

MOST RESTAURANTS VISITED
The record for the greatest number of restaurants visited is held by restaurant grader Fred E Magel of Chicago, Illinois, USA, who over a period of 50 years dined out 46,000 times in 60 different countries. His favourite dishes were South African rock lobster and fresh English strawberry mousse.

BIGGEST BREAKFAST
On 17 April 1998 a total of 13,797 people took part in a breakfast of cereal and milk at Dubai Creekside Park, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The event was organized by Kellogg's, who provided all the participants with miniature packets of cereal.

BIGGEST TOAST
At 11 pm EST on 26 Feb 1999, a record 197,647 people gathered simultaneously in pubs, restaurants and bars in 74 metropolitan areas of the USA for the Great Guinness Toast.

⊙ BIGGEST RESTAURANT
The Mang Gorn Luang (Royal Dragon) restaurant in Bangkok, Thailand, can seat up to 5,000 customers and is manned by a staff of 1,200. Opened in Oct 1991, its service area of 1.6 ha (4 acres) is worked by 541 waiters, who wear roller skates to enable them to serve up to 3,000 meals an hour.

BIGGEST TEQUILA SLAM
On 26 Nov 1999 137 people performed a 'Mexican-wave'-style tequila slam at Bar Madrid, London, UK. The event was started by Chris Greener, the UK's tallest man, and took 5 min 14 sec to complete.

BIGGEST BARBECUE
A record 44,158 people attended a barbecue at Warwick Farm Racecourse, Sydney, NSW, Australia, on 10 Oct 1993.

BIGGEST PUB
The Mathäser in Munich, Germany, seats 5,500 people and sells 48,000 litres (84,470 pints) of beer a day. It was established in 1829, demolished during World War II and reopened in 1955.

LONGEST BAR
The bar in the Beer Barrel Saloon, Ohio, USA, is 123.7 m (405 ft 10 in) long. Set up in 1989, it is fitted with 56 beer taps and is surrounded by 160 bar stools.

LONGEST-DISTANCE PIZZA DELIVERY
In March 1998 Eddie Fishbaum, the owner of Broadway's Jerusalem 2 in New York City, USA, was asked to hand-deliver a plain pizza base to TV presenter Eiji Bando in Tokyo, Japan – a distance of 10,867 km (6,753 miles). The request was made on the Japanese TV show *Unbelievable*, shown on the Fuji network. The total cost of the pizza, including Fishbaum's expenses, was $7,000 (£4,200).

FASTEST RICE EATER
Using chopsticks, Dean Gould of Felixstowe, Suffolk, UK, ate 51 grains of rice, one by one, in three minutes. The record was set at Bombay Nite, Walton, Essex, UK, on 10 March 1998.

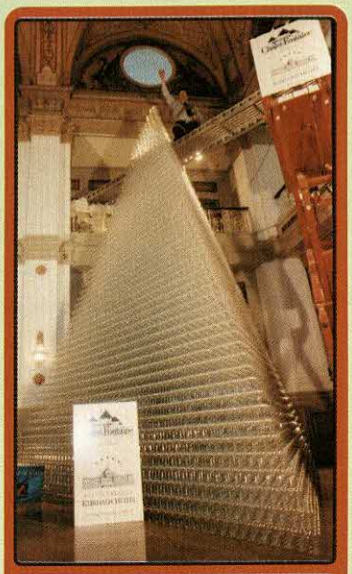
FASTEST CREAM CRACKER EATER
On 20 April 2000, during filming for the TV show *Guinness World Records*, Vic Kent (UK) ate three cream crackers in 2 min 6 sec.

FASTEST BAKED BEAN EATER
The greatest number of baked beans eaten with a cocktail stick in five minutes is 226, a record set by Andy Szerbini (UK) at London Zoo, London, UK, on 18 Nov 1996.

LONGEST LINE OF SWEETS
In 24 hours between 5 and 6 Dec 1998, 60 scouts constructed a continuous line of 306,250 Mintie sweets, covering a distance of 15.143 km (9.4 miles). The record was set at Goldfields Leisure Nestle Centre, Maryborough, Victoria, Australia.

LONGEST NOODLE
The longest Chinese-style noodle ever made was 55.18 m (181 ft) in length, with a diameter of 7 mm (0.28 in). It was created at the Pasir Panjang Family Fun Day, Singapore, on 30 May 1999.

HEAVIEST CHOCOLATE MODEL
A 4.2-m x 4.2-m x 2-m (13.8-ft x 13.8-ft x 6.6-ft) chocolate model of a house, weighing 5.1 tonnes (5 tons), was made by José Rafael Palermo in Córdoba, Argentina, between 8 and 23 March 1997.



⊙ TALLEST CHAMPAGNE FOUNTAIN
Between 28 and 30 Dec 1999, Luuk Broos, director of Maison Luuk-Chalet Fontaine, constructed a 56-storey champagne fountain at the Steigenberger Kurhaus Hotel, Scheveningen, Netherlands. It was made from 30,856 traditional long-stem glasses.

→ BIGGEST SERVING OF FISH AND CHIPS
The largest serving of fish and chips was produced by Somerfield Stores Ltd in Bristol, UK, on 25 Feb 2000. The fish, fried by David Morgan (right), weighed 3.6 kg (8 lb) and the chips weighed 3.2 kg (7 lb).

Games & Gambling

BIGGEST HOPSCOTCH GRID
On 5 Sept 1998 Liz Barr, Rebecca Woodle and Blain Littlefield of Hinsdale, Illinois, USA, created a 13.7-m-long (15-yd) hopscotch grid consisting of 30 squares, each with an area of 56 cm^2 (22 in^2).

BIGGEST GAME OF PASS-THE-PARCEL
The largest ever game of pass-the-parcel involved 3,918 students removing 2,200 wrappers from a 1.5-m x 1.5-m x 0.5-m (4.9-ft x 4.9-ft x 1.6-ft) parcel in two and a half hours. The record was set at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, on 28 Feb 1998.

LONGEST TIDDLYWINK JUMP
A jump of 9.52 m (31 ft 3 in) was achieved by Ben Soares of the St Andrew's Tiddlywinks Society at Queen's College, Cambridge, UK, on 14 Jan 1995.

HIGHEST TIDDLYWINK JUMP
The high jump record is 3.49 m (11 ft 5 in), by Adrian Jones, David Smith and Ed Wynn of the Cambridge University Tiddlywinks Club, all on 21 Oct 1989.

FASTEST GAME OF SOLITAIRE
On 2 Aug 1991 Stephen Twigge completed a game of solitaire in 10 seconds at Scissett Baths, W Yorks, UK.

FASTEST-BUILT JENGA TOWER
The fastest time in which a 30-storey Jenga tower has been built, within the rules of the game, is 12 min 27 sec, by Simon Spalding and Ali Malik at Highclere Castle, Hants, UK, on 17 Aug 1997.

HIGHEST SKITTLE SCORES
The highest table skittle score in a 24-hour period is 116,047, achieved by 12 players at the Castle Mona, Newcastle, Staffs, UK, on 15–16 April 1990.

The highest long-alley score is 94,151, a record set by a team from the Carpenters Arms, Leigh, Dorset, UK, on 10–11 March 1995.

HIGHEST SCRABBLE SCORES
The highest competitive game score is 1,049, by Phil Appleby of Lymington, Hants, UK, on 25 June 1989 in Wormley, Herts, UK. His opponent scored just 253 points, giving Appleby a record 796-point margin of victory.

The highest competitive single-turn score recorded is 392, by Dr Saladin Karl Khoshnaw in Manchester, UK, in April 1982. He laid down the word 'CAZIQUES' – 'natives chiefs of West Indian aborigines'.

MOST DRAUGHTS OPPONENTS
On 26 April 1998 Ronald 'Suki' King (Barbados) played 385 simultaneous games

⊙ BIGGEST LOTTERY WIN BY A TOWN
On 22 Dec 1999 the Spanish National Lottery *El Gordo* ('The Fat One') was particularly kind to the people of the southeastern town of Elche. All of the lottery's 1,450 first-prize coupons were bought there, giving its citizens a record total of $262 million (£163 million) in prize money.

⊙ BIGGEST DOMINO TOPPLE
At 11:22 pm Chinese time on 31 Dec 1999, a record 2,751,518 dominoes were toppled in 32 min 22 sec at the Gymnasium of Beijing University, Beijing, China. The dominoes had been set up over 40 days by a team of 53 Chinese and Japanese students. The attempt was jointly organized by Tokyo Broadcasting System, Japan, and Beijing TV, China.

⊙ MOST PLAYED BOARD GAME

By June 2000, Monopoly had been played by 500 million people worldwide. The game was invented by Charles B Darrow (above) of Pennsylvania, USA, in 1934, and has now sold over 200 million units.

of draughts at the Houston International Festival, Houston, Texas, USA. King donned rollerskates to move more quickly between his 385 opponents.

MOST DRAUGHTS WORLD TITLES
Walter Hellman (USA) won a record eight draughts world titles between 1948 and 1975. He was World Champion for two stretches – from 1948 to 1955, and from 1963 until his death in July 1975.

HIGHEST CHESS RATINGS
The highest rating ever attained on the officially adopted Elo System – devised by Arpad E Elo (Hungary, later USA) – is 2,815, by the current world champion Gary Kasparov (Russia) in 1993.

The highest-rated woman chess player is Judit Polgar (Hungary), who achieved a peak rating of 2,675 in 1996.

MOST BRIDGE WORLD TITLES
Italy's Blue Team (Squadra Azzura) won 13 Bermuda Bowl world titles and an additional three team Olympiads between 1957 and 1975. Giorgio Belladonna played in all the team's winning games.

MOST BRIDGE HANDS
During the 1989 World Championships, held in Perth, Western Australia, Marcel Branco and Gabriel Chagas (both Brazil) played a record 752 out of a possible 784 boards.

BIGGEST LOTTERY JACKPOT
The Big Game Lottery, run by seven US states (Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey and Virginia), offered a jackpot of $350 million (£229 million) on 9 May 2000. Two ticketholders shared the prize. The odds of a player picking the winning numbers were 76 million to one – the same odds as a random name picked from a USA-wide phone book being that of a living US ex-president.

BIGGEST SLOT-MACHINE JACKPOT
Cindy Jay (USA), a 38-year-old cocktail waitress, won a record $34,959,458 (£21,258,282) on a Megabucks game at the casino of the Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, on 26 Jan 2000.

BIGGEST GAME OF BINGO
The largest 'house' in Bingo history was one of 15,756 at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, Canada, on 19 Aug 1983. Organized by the Variety Club of Ontario Tent Number 28, the event offered total prize money of $167,723 (£109,559), with a record one-game payout of $67,089 (£43,823).

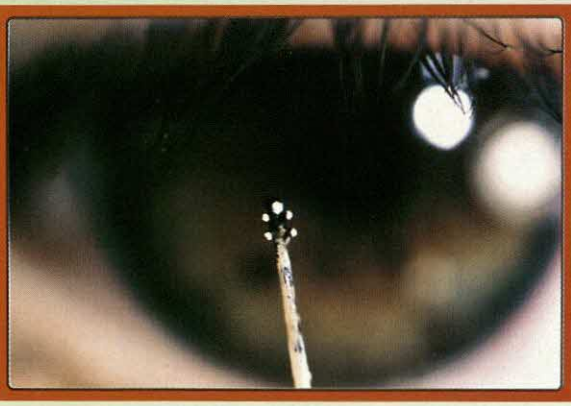
BIGGEST HORSE BETTING PAYOUT
On 19 April 1987 Anthony Speelman and Nicholas Cowan (both UK) won a record $1,627,084 (£1,062,835) – after federal income tax of $406,768 (£265,707) had been deducted – on a $64 (£42) nine-horse accumulator at Santa Anita Racecourse, California, USA. The jackpot had been built up for 24 days.

MOST ROLLS ROYCES RAFFLED
In March 2000 a record 31 Rolls Royce cars – one for every day of the month – were raffled in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, as part of the Dubai Shopping Festival.

↓ MOST WAGERED ON FLAT RACING

Of the $40 billion (£24 billion) wagered on flat racing worldwide, $17.2 billion (£10.3 billion), or 43%, is placed in Japan. The biggest flat race in the Japanese racing calendar is the annual Japan Cup, which usually attracts bets of around $306.3 million (£200 million).

Toys



⊙ SMALLEST TEDDY BEAR

In 1999 Japanese artist Hiromu Morine from Sapporo, Japan, created a resin teddy bear less than 1 mm (0.04 in) in height. Morine, a member of the Japan Doll House Association, has had his work exhibited around the world.

MOST VALUABLE MONOPOLY SET

A $2-million (£1.2-million) Monopoly set was created by jeweller Sidney Mobell (USA) in 1988. Its board is made of 23-carat gold, the chimneys of the gold houses and hotels are topped with rubies and sapphires, and the dice's spots are diamonds.

MOST EXPENSIVE BOARD GAME

The most expensive commercially available board game is the deluxe version of Outrage!, produced by Imperial Games (UK). The game, which is based around the theme of stealing the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London, currently sells for £3,995 ($6,200).

BIGGEST BOARD GAME

The world's biggest commercially available board game is Galaxion, created by Cerebe Design International of Hong Kong, China. The game's board measures a record 83.8 cm x 83.8 cm (33 in x 33 in).

BIGGEST TWISTER SHEET

The largest single sheet for the game Twister measured 18 m x 6 m (60 ft x 20 ft). It was made by Vision International of Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, in Feb 1998.

BIGGEST PACKS OF PLAYING CARDS

In 1998 Naipes Heraclio Fournier of Vitoria, Spain, printed 150 packs of the world's biggest playing cards. Each card measured 94 cm x 61.5 cm (3 ft 1 in x 2 ft 2.5 in).

SMALLEST JIGSAW PUZZLES

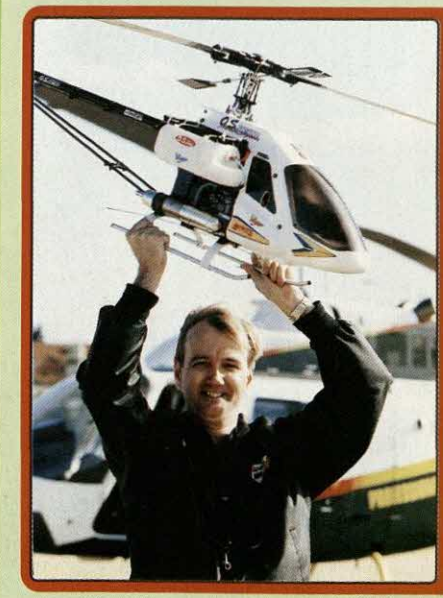
The 99-piece 'Nano' wooden jigsaw puzzle, made by World of Escher, Texas, USA, measures 6.5 cm x 5.5 cm (2.6 in x 2.2 in).

The smallest commercially available 1,000-piece jigsaw measures 46 cm x 30 cm (18.1 in x 11.8 in). It is manufactured by Educa Sallent of Barcelona, Spain.

BIGGEST JIGSAW PUZZLES

The largest ever jigsaw puzzle measured 4,783 m² (51,485 ft²) and consisted of 47,924 pieces. It was assembled in Marseille, France, on 8 July 1992.

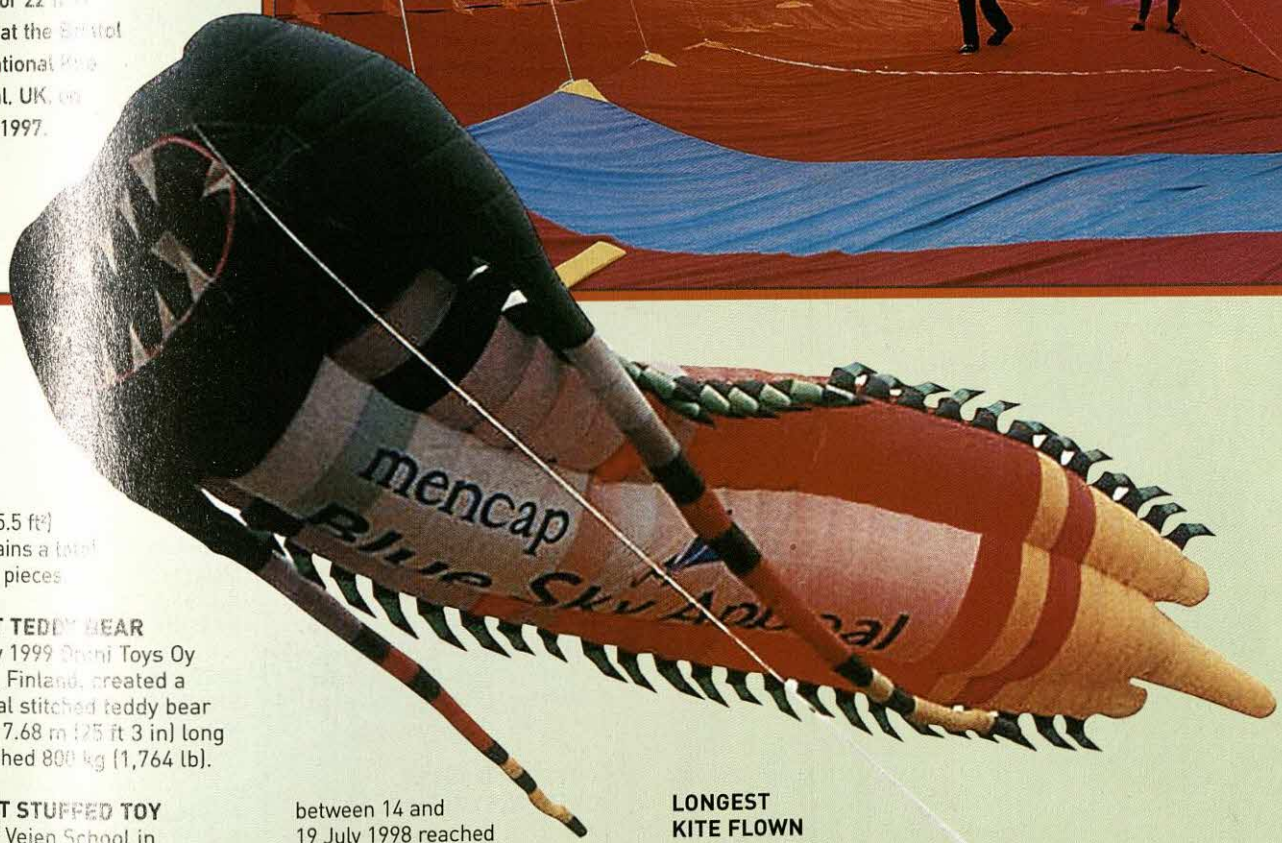
The largest commercially available jigsaw puzzle is manufactured by Educa Sallent of Barcelona, Spain. It measures



⊙ LONGEST FLIGHT OVER WATER BY A MODEL HELICOPTER

On 18 Dec 1999 Michael Farnan (Australia) flew his JR Vigor model helicopter a distance of 64 km (39.8 miles) across Port Philip Bay, Victoria, Australia. The helicopter was controlled from a full-size helicopter flying alongside it, and took 40 minutes to complete the distance. It had a total takeoff weight of 8.5 kg (18 lb 12 oz).

⊙ BIGGEST KITE FLOWN
The largest kite ever flown is the Megabite, which is 64 m (210 ft) long (including tails) and 22 m (72 ft) wide, with a total flat area of 933 m² (10,043 ft²). Designed by Peter Lynn (New Zealand), it was flown for 22 min 57 sec at the Bristol International Kite Festival, UK, on 7 Sept 1997.



3.3 m² (35.5 ft²) and contains a total of 10,000 pieces.

BIGGEST TEDDY BEAR
On 6 May 1999 Oboni Toys Oy of Turku, Finland, created a traditional stitched teddy bear that was 7.68 m (25 ft 3 in) long and weighed 800 kg (1,764 lb).

LONGEST STUFFED TOY
Pupils of Veien School in Hønefoss, Norway, created a 419.7-m-long (1,377-ft) stuffed snake in June 1994.

BIGGEST YO-YO
A 407-kg (896-lb) yo-yo with a diameter of 3.17 m (10 ft 5 in) was devised by JN Nichols (Vimto) Ltd and made by students at Stockport College, Greater Manchester, UK. It was launched by crane from a height of 57.5 m (189 ft) on 1 Aug 1993, and yo-yoed about four times.

TALLEST LEGO STRUCTURE
A Lego tower built by more than 2,000 children in Moscow, Russia, between 14 and 19 July 1998 reached a height of 24.66 m (80 ft 11 in). It was made from 387,903 bricks.

LONGEST LEGO STRUCTURE
On 31 May 1998 20,000 people built a 577.6-m-long (1,895-ft) Lego millipede in the Old Town Square, Prague, Czech Republic, using 1,500,834 bricks.

SMALLEST KITE FLOWN
A kite built by Nobuhiko Yoshizuni (Japan) and flown in Seattle, Washington, USA, on 18 April 1998 measured just 10 mm x 8 mm (0.39 in x 0.31 in).

LONGEST KITE FLOWN
On 18 Nov 1990 Michel Trouillet flew a 1,034.5-m-long (3,394-ft) kite at Nîmes, France.

LENGTHIEST FLIGHT BY A PAPER AEROPLANE
Ken Blackburn flew a paper plane for 27.6 sec at the Georgia Dome, Atlanta, USA, on 8 Oct 1998.

BIGGEST LITE-BRITE PICTURE
Lori Kanary (USA) created a 1.21-m x 1.82-m (4-ft x 6-ft) version of Monet's *Impression Sunrise* using 62,856 Lite-Brite pegs. It was exhibited on 5 Nov 1999 in Denver, Colorado, USA.

Collectors

BIGGEST CLOTHING TAG COLLECTION
Angela Bettelli of Modena, Italy, had collected a total of 2,180 different cardboard clothing tags by 1990. Her collection includes tags from French, German and Italian designers. The oldest one is 40 years old.

BIGGEST PARKING METER COLLECTION
Lotta Sjölin of Solna, Sweden, had accumulated a collection of 292 different parking meters by July 1996. She obtains the disused meters from local authorities all over the world, and started her collection in 1989.

BIGGEST KEY-RING COLLECTION
Jeremy Demchuck of Kent, Washington, USA, has collected a total of 21,513 different key-rings since 1993. Each one was obtained from a lost-and-found office or purchased at a jumble sale.

⊙ BIGGEST CRISP PACKET COLLECTION
Frank Ritter (USA), who lives in Nottingham, UK, has collected 683 individual crisp packets, from 15 different countries, since 1993.

BIGGEST GOLF BALL COLLECTION
Ted Hoz of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA, has collected 46,778 different golf balls since 1986.

BIGGEST CHAMBER POT COLLECTION
Manfred Klauda has collected 9,400 chamber pots, the earliest one dating from the 16th century. His collection can be seen at the Zentrum für Aussergewöhnliche Museum, Munich, Germany.

BIGGEST GNOME AND PIXIE COLLECTION
Since 1978, Anne Atkin of West Putford, Devon, UK, has collected a total of 2,010 gnomes and pixies. They live in a 1.6-ha (4-acre) gnome reserve, which has been visited by over 25,000 people to date.

BIGGEST FRUIT STICKER COLLECTION
Antoine Secco of Bourbon-Laancy, France, has collected over 20,500 different fruit stickers.

BIGGEST FRIDGE MAGNET COLLECTION
Louise Greenfarb of Spanaway, Washington, USA, has collected over 29,000 fridge magnets.

BIGGEST CIGARETTE LIGHTER COLLECTION
Francis Van Herle of Beringen, Belgium, has a collection of 58,259 different lighters.

BIGGEST ROBIN CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION
Joan Gordon of Kent, UK, has collected a total of 10,677 Christmas cards with pictures of robins on them. She uses them to decorate her house each Christmas, a process that starts in November.

BIGGEST BOTTLE-OPENER COLLECTION
Dale Deckert of Orlando, Florida, USA, started his collection of bottle-openers after being discharged from the US Army in 1945. They come from 136 different countries and total 20,884, excluding duplicates.

BIGGEST BUS TICKET COLLECTION
Yacov Yosipovv of Tel Aviv, Israel, has over 14,000 used bus tickets, every one different in some way.

BIGGEST BEER MAT COLLECTION
Leo Pisker of Langenzersdorf, Austria, has collected a record 152,860 different beer mats from 185 countries to date. The largest in his collection measures 76 cm x 76 cm (2 ft 6 in x 2 ft 6 in), and the smallest measures just 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm (1 in x 1 in).

BIGGEST BARBIE DOLL COLLECTION
Tony Mattia of Brighton, E Sussex, UK, has a collection of 1,125 Barbie dolls – about half the models produced since Mattel launched the doll in the USA in 1959. The total includes many versions of Barbie's boyfriend Ken.

BIGGEST AEROPLANE SICKBAG COLLECTION
Nick Vermeulen of Wormerveer, Netherlands, has collected 2,112 different aeroplane sickbags from 470 airlines around the world.

BIGGEST NAIL CLIPPER COLLECTION
André Ludwick of Parys, South Africa, has collected 505 different nail clippers since 1971. His favourite set are the oldest, which were handmade by a blacksmith in approximately 1935.

BIGGEST FAKE MASTERPIECE COLLECTION
Christophe Petyt of France owns just over 2,500 fake paintings representing some of the most famous works in art history. Widely considered to be one of the world's best forgers, he created

⊙ BIGGEST EARRING COLLECTION
Carol McFadden of Oil City, Pennsylvania, USA, had collected 30,748 different pairs of earrings by 20 Jan 2000.

the collection with the help of 82 other painters. He founded the L'Art du Faux foundation in Paris, France, in 199[illegible]

BIGGEST *BOTIJO* COLLECTION
Since 1991, Jesús Gil-Gilbernau del Río of Logroño, Spain, has collected over 2,500 *botijos* – traditional Spanish drinking vessels with two spouts and a handle. His collection includes *botijos* made of porcelain, crystal, wood and pottery.

BIGGEST SHOT GLASS COLLECTION
Brad Rogers of Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, has a collection of 8,411 shot glasses.

BIGGEST THERMOMETER COLLECTION
John Thynne of Southwick, W Sussex, UK, has collected 240 thermometers since 1989.

BIGGEST GUM COLLECTION
Since 1980, Steve Fletcher of London, UK, has collected a record total of 5,100 chewing gum and bubble gum packets.

BIGGEST SIGNED BOOK COLLECTION
Michael Silverbrooke and Pat Tonkin of Vancouver, Canada, have collected a total of 318 books that have been signed by their authors.

BIGGEST MUG COLLECTION
Marlene Williamson of Charleston, South Carolina, USA, has been collecting mugs since 1996, and has amassed a record total of 1,419.

→ BIGGEST ANGEL COLLECTION
Joyce and Lowell Berg from Beloit, Wisconsin, USA, have a collection of 12,037 angel and cherub figurines, music boxes and even an angel smoke alarm.

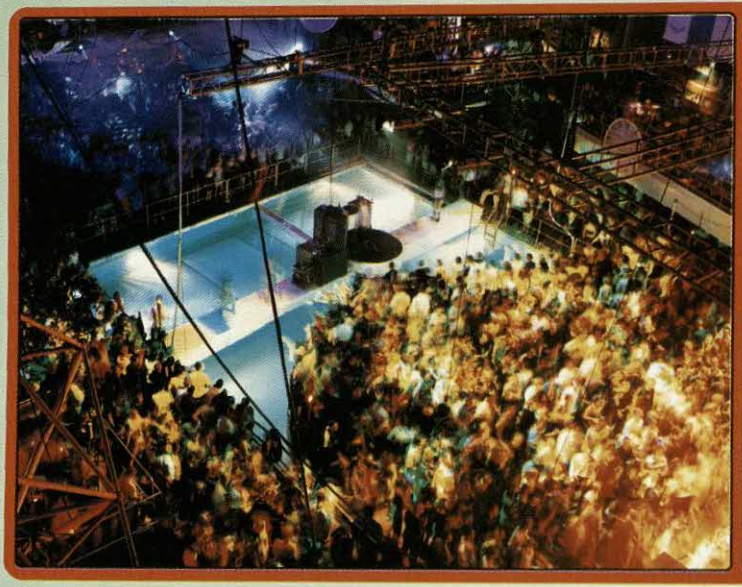
Clubbing & Parties

BIGGEST MILLENNIUM PARTIES
The largest millennium parties held on 31 Dec 1999/1 Jan 2000 took place in London, UK, New York City, USA, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

In London, 3.5 million people lined 12 km (7.5 miles) of the River Thames at midnight to watch a 15-minute fireworks display that took place on 16 barges moored along the river. The fireworks were covered by 54 television networks from around the world, and were the largest display of its kind ever, requiring over 30.5 tonnes (30 tons) of pyrotechnics. The all-day celebrations, which began at 11 am and lasted until 2 am, drew an estimated 5 million people in total and included two funfairs, an arts festival, four performance stages, 50 live music acts and three giant video screens.

The celebrations in New York drew a crowd of 3 million people in and around Times Square, who watched a 1.8-m-wide (6-ft), 485-kg (1,070-lb) Waterford crystal ball drop down a 23.5-m (77-ft) flagpole, triggering fireworks and 4.1 tonnes (4 tons) of confetti. The festivities ran for 24 hours, with a different show every hour representing the arrival of the millennium in each of the world's time zones. The event was the longest continuously-running performance in the city's history, and featured live music, giant puppets, video broadcasts from around the globe and over 500 performers. It was estimated to have cost $7 million (£4.3 million), and produced 30.5 tonnes (30 tons) of litter.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, hosted fireworks displays on a number of its beaches, attracting an overall crowd of 4 million people. The largest took place at Copacabana, where 3 million people turned up along a 13-km (8-mile) stretch of beach to join in the celebrations. Fireworks were launched from an offshore barge, five locations on the sand and two forts at either end of the beach. Three giant sound stages were erected, as well as a 100-m (328-ft) high-resolution screen, and the proceedings were broadcast around the world.



⊙ BIGGEST INDOOR NIGHTCLUB
Privilege in Ibiza, Spain, can accommodate 10,000 clubbers on its 6,500 m² (69,965 ft²) of dance space, spread over three floors. One end of the venue is made from sheet glass to allow the morning sun to shine through. A swimming pool, fountains, gardens, trees and plants add to the ambience of the club, the venue for the legendary Manumission all-nighters.

⊙ LONGEST DANCE PARTY
The longest dance party on record was hosted by MTV India and took place at the Fireball club, Gurgaon, India, from 26 to 29 Nov 1999. It featured 56 participants who danced continuously for 50 hours.

BIGGEST CARNIVALS
Salvador Carnival, Bahia, Brazil, attracts 2 million people, including 800,000 tourists, every year and generates $254 million (£162.9 million) in business. The six-day carnival takes place on 26 km (16 miles) of road through the town centre, with 100 carnival groups called *blocos* entertaining the crowds.

The 1999 Mardi Gras celebrations in the French Quarter of New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, also drew an estimated 2 million people.

BIGGEST ROCK FESTIVAL
The highest attendance at a rock festival was 670,000, for Steve Wozniak's 1983 US Festival at Devore, near San Bernardino, California, USA. It lasted from 28 to 30 May, with a fourth day for country music on 4 June. The event's headline artists were The Clash, Van Halen, David Bowie and Willie Nelson.

BIGGEST ANNUAL FOOD FIGHT
On the last Wednesday of every August, the town of Buñol, Spain, holds its annual tomato festival, known as the Tomatina. At the 1999 event, 25,000 people spent one hour hurling about 125 tonnes (123 tons) of tomatoes at each other. The fruit is dumped in streets for participants to scoop up and throw.

↓ BIGGEST GAY FESTIVALS

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Pride Parade in San Francisco, California, USA, and the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in Sydney, NSW, Australia (pictured), each attracted 600,000 people in 1999.

BIGGEST GARLIC FESTIVAL

The three-day Gilroy Garlic Festival, held each summer in Gilroy, California, USA, attracts 130,000 people, who can sample garlic-flavoured food ranging from meat to ice-cream.

BIGGEST BIRTHDAY PARTY

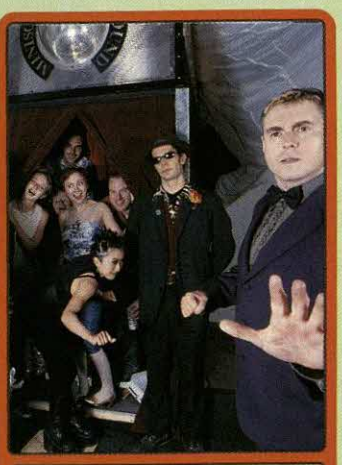
The largest birthday party for someone who actually attended the event took place in Louisville, Kentucky, USA, on 8 Sept 1979 to celebrate the 89th birthday of Kentucky Fried Chicken founder Col Harland Sanders. A total of 35,000 guests turned up.

BIGGEST CHILDREN'S PARTY

A party to celebrate the International Year of the Child, held in Hyde Park, London, UK, on 30–31 May 1979, was attended by 160,000 children.

BIGGEST TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

On 24 June 1995 33,573 bears (and their owners) attended a teddy bears' picnic at Dublin Zoo, Ireland.



⊙ SMALLEST NIGHTCLUB

The Miniscule of Sound, London, UK, is 2.4 m (8 ft) long, 1.2 m (4 ft) wide and 2.4 m (8 ft) high, with a 2-m² (21.5-ft²) dance floor. It can accommodate a maximum of 14 people, including the DJ.

Organizations

BIGGEST SCHOOL
In 1999 the City Montessori School, Lucknow, India, had a record enrolment of 22,612 pupils.

BIGGEST TRADE UNION CONGLOMERATE
In March 2000 the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia had 38 million members.

BIGGEST STAMP-COLLECTING ORGANIZATION
With over 55,000 members in more than 110 countries, the American Philatelic Society is the largest non-profit society in the world for stamp collectors and postal historians. It is supported entirely by membership dues, gifts and the sale of its publications and services. The APS was founded in 1886.

OLDEST MAGIC SOCIETY
The Society of American Magicians is the oldest magic society in the world. It was founded in Martinka's famous magic shop in New York City, USA, on 10 May 1902, with only 24 members.

OLDEST ROTARY CLUB
Chicago, USA, lawyer Paul Harris, together with three friends, started the first Rotary Club on 23 Feb 1905. The club had a total of 30 members by the end of the year.

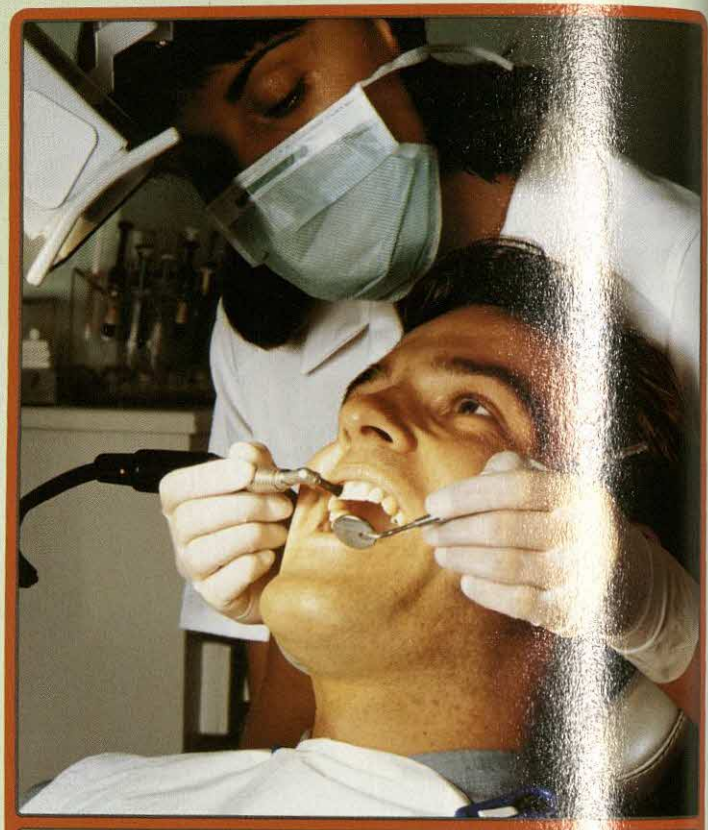
COUNTRY WITH MOST ROTARY CLUBS
Rotary International consists of 29,500 clubs in 162 countries. The USA boasts 7,485 clubs, while Japan is in second position with 2,280.

OLDEST MASONIC LODGES
The oldest written records for a Masonic lodge belong to Aitchison's Haven in Musselburgh, UK. They date back to 9 Jan 1599.

The oldest written records for a Masonic lodge that is still in existence today are from The Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel), No 1, UK. They date back to 31 July 1599.

SMALLEST TRADE UNION
The Sheffield Wool Shear Workers Union, S Yorks, UK, currently has 10 members.

The Jewelcase and Jewellery Display Makers' Union (JJDMU), founded in 1894, was dissolved by its general secretary Charles Evans on 31 Dec 1986. The motion was seconded by Fergus McCormack, the union's only other surviving member.



⊙ BIGGEST DENTAL ASSOCIATION
As of March 2000, the American Dental Association had 1[illegible],400 registered members.

⊙ BIGGEST MAGIC SOCIETY
The International Magicians' Society, founded in New York City, USA, in 1968, has 23,000 members worldwide. These include David Copperfield (left), the highest-paid magician in the world.

BIGGEST ASSOCIATION OF PSYCHOLOGISTS
The registered membership of the American Psychological Association was 159,000 in March 2000.

LONGEST-RUNNING FAN CLUB FOR A GROUP
The Official Queen Fan Club was set up by EMI after the launch of the band's first album, *Queen*, in 1973, because of the unprecedented amount of fan mail the group was receiving. At its peak, the club had more than 20,000 members, although this number has now dropped to 9,500.

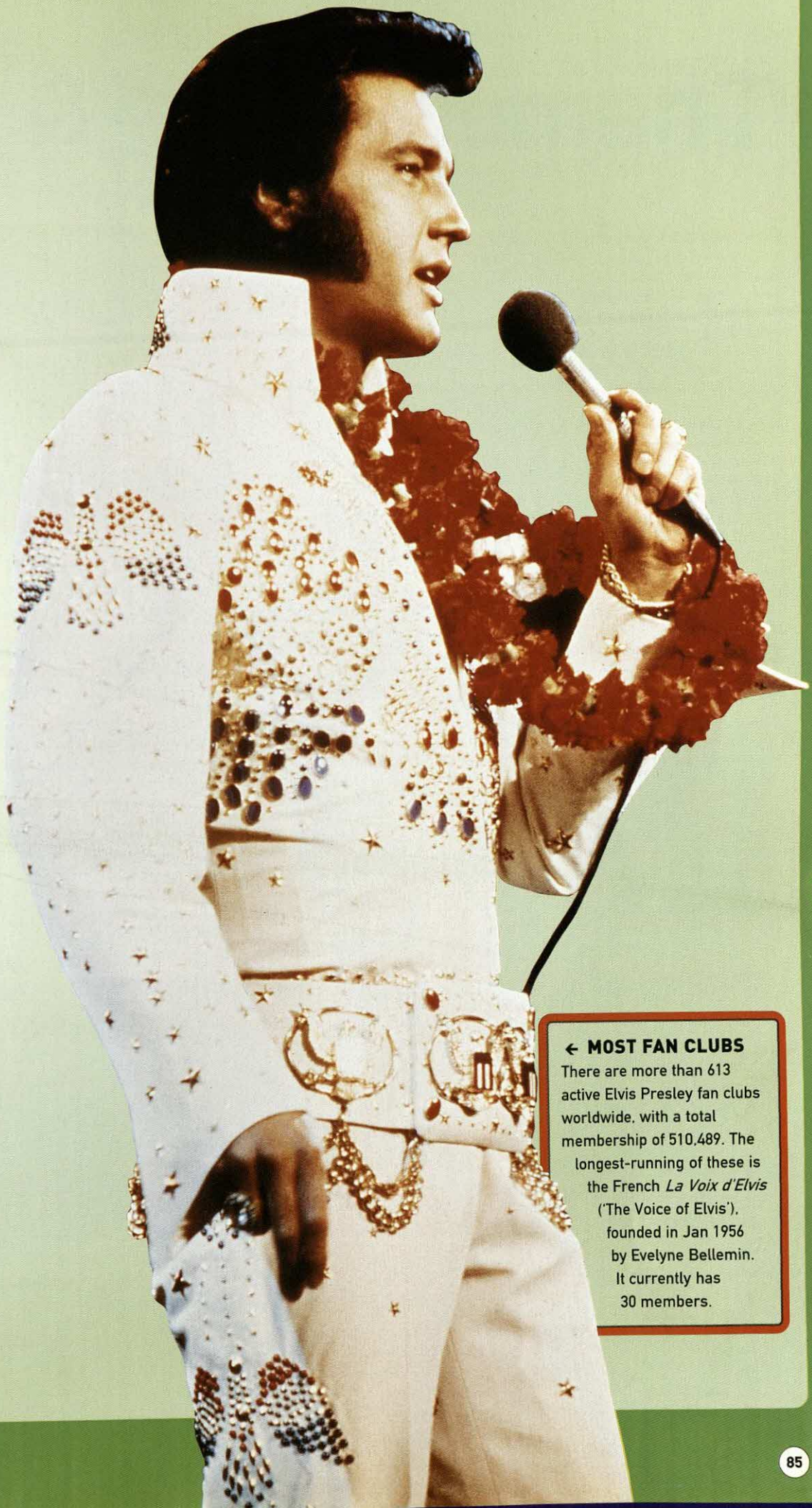
LONGEST-RUNNING FAN CLUB FOR A SOLO ARTIST
The Club Crosby, founded in 1936, celebrates the work of Bing Crosby and currently has 450 members worldwide. Its official magazine is published twice a year.

OLDEST LIFE-SAVING ORGANIZATION
The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), a British life-saving society, was formed by royal edict in March 1824 and celebrated its 175th anniversary in 1999. By April 1999, the organization had saved 132,500 lives.

BIGGEST VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE ORGANIZATION
Abdul Sattar Edhi (Pakistan) began his ambulance service in 1948, ferrying injured people to hospital. Today, his radio-linked network includes 500 ambulances all over Pakistan, and attracts funds of $5 million (£3.1 million) a year. He has also set up 300 relief centres, three air ambulances, 24 hospitals, three drug rehabilitation centres, women's centres, free dispensaries and soup kitchens.

BIGGEST NEWS ORGANIZATION
Founded in 1848, the Associated Press is the world's oldest and largest news organization, with 3,500 employees working in 240 bureaux in 72 countries. AP supplies 20 million words a day to subscribers and agencies in 112 countries worldwide.

OLDEST INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION
The oldest international human rights organization still in existence today is the UK-based Anti-Slavery, founded in 1839 as the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society (BFASS). It continues to fight exploitation and all forms of forced labour around the world.



← MOST FAN CLUBS
There are more than 613 active Elvis Presley fan clubs worldwide, with a total membership of 510,489. The longest-running of these is the French *La Voix d'Elvis* ('The Voice of Elvis'), founded in Jan 1956 by Evelyne Bellemin. It currently has 30 members.

Theme Parks & Rides

MOST VISITED THEME PARK
In 1999 Tokyo Disneyland in Japan atracted a record 17.46 million visitors – an increase of 4.6% on the previous year. The park also holds the record for the highest theme park attendance in the period 1990–99, when it drew a total of 162.6 million people.

BIGGEST INDOOR THEME PARK
The world's largest indoor amusement park is Galaxyland, located inside the West Edmonton Mall, Alberta, Canada. The park covers an area of 37,160 m² (44,444 yd²) and contains 30 skill games and 27 rides and attractions. These include *The Mindbender*, a 14-storey triple-loop roller coaster that exerts a record G-force of 6.5 on its passengers, and *Drop Of Doom*, a 13-storey freefall ride.

BIGGEST INDOOR WATER PARK
The Ocean Dome is part of a leisure complex in Miyazaki, Kyushu, Japan. The park is 300 m (984 ft 3 in) long, 100 m (328 ft 1 in) wide and 38 m (124 ft 8 in) high, with a 140-m-long (459-ft 3-in) beach made from crushed marble. It also contains the world's biggest wave-making machine, capable of creating waves 2.5 m (8 ft 2 in) high.

MOST RIDES IN A THEME PARK
Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio, USA, has a total of 67 different rides – the most of any theme park in the world today. These include traditional wooden-track roller coasters such as *Blue Stack*, which was built in 1961, and *Woodcock Express*, a steel-track coaster that opened in 1999.

COUNTRY WITH MOST ROLLER COASTERS
There are a record 427 roller coasters in the USA. The UK is second, with 114, and Japan third, with 66.

FASTEST ROLLER COASTER
Superman The Escape, located at Six Flags Magic Mountain, Valencia, California, USA, is the fastest roller coaster in the world. Riders are taken up to a height of 126 m (415 ft) in 15-seater gondolas before falling back along the tracks at a speed of 160 km/h (100 mph). They experience a record 6.5 seconds of 'airtime', or negative G-force.

LONGEST ROLLER COASTER
The Ultimate roller coaster at Lightwater Valley Theme Park, Ripon, N Yorks, UK, is 2.289 km (1.42 miles) long. The average ride lasts for 5 min 50 sec.

⊙ OLDEST AMUSEMENT PARK
The world's oldest operating amusement park is Bakken, located in Klampenborg, Denmark. Opened in 1583, it has a 98-ft (30-m) wooden roller coaster, a flume and various other thrill rides.

TALLEST GRAVITY-BASED ROLLER COASTER
The steel-track *Millennium Force* at Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio, USA, reaches a record height of 94.4 m (310 ft). Designed by Intamin Ag of Switzerland and opened on 12 May 2000, its highest drop – one of 91.4 m (300 ft) – allows riders to experience speeds of up to 148 km/h (92 mph).

TALLEST GYRO DROP RIDE
Drop Zone, designed by Ride Trade of Liechtenstein and located at Paramount's Kings Island Theme Park, Ohio, USA, is the world's tallest gyro drop ride. Riders travel a record distance of 80 m (262 ft 6 in) from a 91.4-m-high (300-ft) lift-tower, experiencing speeds of up to 105 km/h (65 mph) in the process.

⊙ LONGEST HORROR HOUSE WALK-THROUGH
Jikei General Hospital, located at the Fujikyu Highland Amusement Park, Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan, is a horror house with a record 500-m-long (547-yd) walk-through. Completed on 25 May 1999, the attraction was designed by hospital architects in order to give it an authentic feel, and is layed out just like a typical Japanese hospital. *Jikei* means 'bloodcurdling' in Japanese.

MOST ROLLER COASTERS RIDDEN IN 24 HOURS
From 12 to 13 Sept 1999 a team of six people from Sun Microsystems, Bracknell, Berks, UK, rode 29 different roller coasters at five theme parks.

BIGGEST OBSERVATION WHEEL
The British Airways London Eye, designed by architects David Marks and Julia Barfield (both UK), is 136.1 m (446 ft 7 in) tall with a 135-m (443 ft) diameter. Located in Jubilee Gardens, London, UK, it made its first 'flight' on 1 Feb 2000.

BIGGEST BOUNCY CASTLE
The world's biggest inflatable castle is 12 m (39 ft) tall and 19 m (62 ft) wide. It was designed by Dana Caspersen and William Forsythe and built by Southern Inflatables, Hants, UK.

← BIGGEST AMUSEMENT PARK
Disney World, located 32 km (20 miles) southwest of Orlando, Florida, USA, covers an area of 12,140 ha (30,000 acres). It was opened on 1 Oct 1971 and cost an estimated $400 million (£257.5 million) to develop.

Fashion

⊙ LONGEST CAREER MODELLING FOR ONE COMPANY
Shima Iwashita (Japan) has been a house model for the Japanese cosmetics company Menard for 28 years. She first signed a contract on 1 April 1972.

MOST EXPENSIVE WEDDING DRESS
A wedding dress created by Hélène Gainville, with jewels by Alexander Reza, was valued at $7.3 million (£4.3 million) in March 1989. It was embroidered with diamonds mounted on platinum.

MOST EXPENSIVE SHAWLS
Shahtoosh shawls, which are made from the underbelly hair of the rare Tibetan antelope, have a retail value of $7,500–$15,000 (£5,000–£10,000). Up to five antelope are killed for each shawl, and trade in the garments is illegal.

MOST EXPENSIVE SHOES
For his self-coronation on 4 Dec 1977, Emperor Bokassa of the Central African Empire (now Central African Republic) commissioned pearl-studded shoes from the House of Berluti, Paris, France, that cost a record $85,000 (£48,571).

The most expensive shoes ever marketed were mink-lined golf shoes with 18-carat gold embellishments and ruby-tipped spikes, made by Stylo Matchmakers International of Northampton, UK, and costing £13,600 ($20,400). They were last made in 1993.

MOST EXPENSIVE DESIGNER HAT
In 1977 UK designer David Shilling created a straw-coloured hat valued at £19,950 ($34,833). A chain of diamonds covering the crown of the hat could be worn as a necklace, a rose decoration as a brooch, and a dewdrop design as a pair of earrings. The hat would now be worth £66,234 ($109,776).

MOST EXPENSIVE TIARA
The world's most expensive tiara was designed by Gianni Versace and had an estimated retail value of $5 million (£3.2 million) in 1996. Set in yellow gold and decorated with 100-carat diamonds, it weighed approximately 300 g (10.5 oz).

MOST EXPENSIVE JEANS
In Oct 1998 Gucci launched a range of jeans retailing at $3,113 (£1,840). They were sold complete with African beading, tribal feather trims and strategically-placed rips, silver metal buttons and rivets.

RICHEST DESIGNER
Ralph Lauren has a personal fortune estimated at $1.7 billion (£1.03 billion). The Ralph Lauren empire, which began with a tie shop in the 1960s, is now valued at around $3 billion (£1.8 billion).

FASTEST-GROWING DESIGNER LABEL
In the fiscal year 1999 the Tommy Hilfiger company had sales of $1.637 billion (£1.047 billion) – an increase of just over 93% on the previous year. Hilfiger clothes are sold in about 1,500 specialized retail shops around the world.

OLDEST ATHLETIC SHOE ENDORSEMENT
Converse's basketball shoes, cross-training casual shoes and children's shoes are sold under the Chuck Taylor Converse All-Star brand, named after Chuck Taylor (USA), who became the first athletic shoe endorser in 1923. Taylor's name was added to the shoes' ankle patch to honour his contribution to basketball.

⊙ MOST DESIGNERS AT ONE FASHION SHOW
A total of 89 designers took part in Paris Fashion Week in 1999, including Jean-Paul Gaultier (above), Vivienne Westwood and Yves Saint Laurent.

⊙ BEST-SELLING SKATE SHOES

Vans is the ninth largest footwear manufacturer in the USA and, according to *Sporting Goods Intelligence*, leads the market in alternative footwear. The company had sales of $205.1 million (£126.8 million) in 1999. Vans shoes are distributed in 90 countries.

BIGGEST SURFWEAR MANUFACTURER

In 1999 Quiksilver had a revenue of approximately $444 million (£284 million), making it the largest manufacturer of surfwear in the world.

BEST-SELLING UNDERWEAR

Marks & Spencer (UK) sells 50 million pairs (counting multi-packs as a pair) of its own brand women's knickers globally each year, or nearly 137,000 pairs a day.

→ MOST EXPENSIVE BRA

The $10-million (£6.3-million) 'Millennium Bra', modelled here by Heidi Klum, is produced by US company Victoria's Secret. Covered in 3,024 stones, including 1,988 sapphires, it is made to order and is delivered to the customer under armoured car and guard.

Movies 1

HIGHEST BOX OFFICE GROSS
Paramount's *Titanic* (USA, 1997) has grossed a total of $1.835 billion (£1.146 billion) worldwide. This figure includes a record 10-week gross of $918.6 million (£574.1 million).

Rising ticket prices mean that the world's top-grossing films are nearly all recent releases. However, the takings for *Gone With The Wind* (USA, 1939) – $393.4 million (£88.2 million) – add up to $3.79 billion (£2.37 billion) when adjusted for inflation.

MOST PROFITABLE FILM SERIES
The 20 Bond movies, the first of which was *Dr No* (UK, 1962), have grossed a total of over $3.2 billion (£2 billion) worldwide.

BIGGEST BOX OFFICE LOSS
MGM's *Cutthroat Island* (USA, 1995), starring Geena Davis and directed by her then husband Renny Harlin, cost over $100 million (£63 million) to produce and promote, but reportedly earned back just $11 million (£7 million).

MOST EXPENSIVE FEATURE FILM
Titanic (USA, 1997) cost just over $200 million (£118.9 million) to make, a total partly accounted for by lengthy delays at the post-production stage.

In terms of real costs adjusted for inflation, the most expensive film ever made was *Cleopatra* (USA, 1963). Its $44-million (£15.71-million) budget would be equivalent to $306.9 million (£175.4 million) today.

LEAST EXPENSIVE FEATURE FILM
Victorian Film Productions' *The Shattered Illusion* (Australia, 1927), a silent film written and directed by AG Harbrow, cost just $1,458 (£300) to make.

BIGGEST PUBLICITY BUDGET
Universal and its licensed merchandisers spent a record $68 million (£45 million) promoting Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* (USA, 1993) in the US alone – $8 million (£5.3 million) more than the cost of the film.

⊙ TOP BUDGET:BOX OFFICE RATIO
The Blair Witch Project (USA, 1999), directed by Daniel Myrick and Eduardo Sánchez, cost $22,000 (£13,750) to make. It grossed $240.5 million (£150.3 million) – a budget:box office ratio of 1:10,931.

TOP-GROSSING ACTRESS
The box office gross of the 22 films Carrie Fisher has appeared in is $1.41 billion (£882 million). Her most profitable movies have been *Star Wars* (USA, 1977), *The Empire Strikes Back* (USA, 1980) and *Return Of The Jedi* (USA, 1983), each of which made over $200 million (£126 million).

BIGGEST FILM STUDIO
The largest film studio complex in the world is at Universal City, Los Angeles, California, USA. Called The Back Lot, it has an area of 170 ha (420 acres) and comprises 561 buildings and 34 sound stages.

BIGGEST FILM SET
The largest film set on record was the 400-m x 230-m (437-yd x 251-yd) re-creation of the Roman Forum used in Samuel Bronston's production of *The Fall Of The Roman Empire* (USA, 1964). Designed by Veniero Colosanti and John Moore, it was built on a 22.25-ha (55-acre) site outside Madrid, Spain. A total of 1,100 workmen spent seven months laying its surface with 170,000 cement blocks and erecting 6,700 m (7,327 yd) of concrete stairways, 601 columns, 350 statues and 27 full-sized Roman buildings.

⊙ TOP-GROSSING ACTOR
The 24 films Harrison Ford (left, in *Air Force One*) has starred in have a combined box office gross of $3.01 billion (£1.88 billion). Ten of them have grossed over $200 million (£126 million). Ford's films include the original *Star Wars* trilogy (USA, 1977–83), the Indiana Jones movies (USA, 1981–89), *The Fugitive* (USA, 1993) and *Air Force One* (USA, 1997).

MOST COSTUMES IN ONE FILM
A record 32,000 costumes were worn in *Quo Vadis* (USA, 1951).

LONGEST FILM
The longest film ever made was the 85-hour *The Cure For Insomnia* (USA, 198[illegible]), directed by John Henry Timmis IV and premiered in its entirety at The School of The Art Institute in Chicago, Illinois, USA, from 31 Jan to 3 Feb 198[illegible]

MOST LEADING ROLES
John Wayne appeared in 153 movies, from *The Drop Kick* (USA, 1927) to *The Shootist* (USA, 1976). He played the lead role in all but 11 of them.

GREATEST AGE RANGE PORTRAYED BY AN ACTOR IN ONE FILM
Dustin Hoffman was 33 years old when he played the role of Jack Crabbe in *Little Big Man* (USA, 1970). In the course of the film his character ages from 17 to 121.

LONGEST SCREEN CAREER
German actor Curt Bois (1901–1991) made his debut in *Der Fidele Bauer* (Ger, 1908) at the age of eight. His final film appearance was 79 years later, in Wim Wenders' *Wings Of Desire* (Ger, 1987).

LONGEST SCREEN PARTNERSHIP
Indian stars Prem Nazir and Sheela played opposite each other in 130 movies until Sheela retired in 1975.

BIGGEST CINEMA
The largest cinema in the world is the Radio City Music Hall, New York City, USA, which opened on 27 Dec 1932 with 5,945 seats. It now has 5,910 seats.

→ HIGHEST OPENING-DAY GROSS
Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace took $28,542,349 (£17,838,968) from 2,970 cinemas in North America on its opening day, 19 May 1999.

Movies 2

BIGGEST FILM OUTPUT
India produces more feature-length films than any other country, with a peak output of 948 in 1990. In 1994, the last year for which figures are available, 754 films in 16 languages were produced at its three major centres of production, Mumbai (Bombay), Calcutta and Chennai (Madras).

BIGGEST CINEMA ATTENDANCE
In 1988 a record 21.8 billion cinema visits were made in China.

HIGHEST-GROSSING COMEDIES
Home Alone (USA, 1990), starring Macaulay Culkin and directed by Chris Columbus, took a record $533.8 million (£299.29 million) at the international box office.

Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me (USA, 1999), starring Mike Myers, grossed $54.92 million (£33.14 million) on 12–13 June 1999, the weekend following its release.

⊙ SHORTEST ACTOR
Verne Troyer, seen here as Mini-Me in *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me* (USA, 1999) with Mike Myers, is 81 cm (2 ft 8 in) tall. His other films include *Men In Black* (USA, 1997) and *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* (USA, 2000).

HIGHEST-GROSSING WESTERN
Dances with Wolves (USA, 1990), directed by and starring Kevin Costner, grossed $424.2 million (£237.8 million) at the international box office.

MOST EXPENSIVE SILENT FILM
Ben Hur (USA, 1925) cost a record total of $3.9 million (then £850,000) to film. This figure is equivalent to $33 million (£20.5 million) today.

HIGHEST-GROSSING SILENT FILM
The Big Parade (USA, 1925), starring John Gilbert, grossed a total of $22 million (then £4.5 million) worldwide.

LONGEST FILM SERIES
A total of 103 films have been made about the 19th-century martial arts hero Huang Fei-Hong. The first in the series was *The True Story Of Huang Fei-Hong* (1949) and the most recent was *Once Upon A Time In China 5* (1995). All the films were made in Hong Kong.

The 48 *Tora-San* comedy films, made by Shochiku Studios, Japan, between Aug 1969 and Dec 1995, all starred Kiyoshi Atsumi in the role of Torajiro Kuruma, making this the longest film series with the same leading actor.

MOST FILMED STORY
There have been a record 95 films based on the classic fairy tale *Cinderella*, including cartoon, ballet, operatic and parody versions. The first ever version was *Fairy Godmother* (UK, 1898) and the most recent was *Ever After* (USA, 1998).

MOST FILMED FICTIONAL CHARACTER
The fictional character most frequently portrayed on the big screen is Sherlock Holmes, the detective created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He has been portrayed by 75 actors in more than 211 films since 1900.

⊙ LONGEST SHOOT
Stanley Kubrick's *Eyes Wide Shut* (USA, 1999), starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, was in production for over 15 months, a period that included an unbroken shoot of 46 weeks. Kubrick, who died before the film was released, also held the record for the most retakes of one scene, with 127 for a scene in *The Shining* (USA, 1980).

⊙ HIGHEST-GROSSING HORROR FILM
The supernatural horror-thriller *The Sixth Sense* (USA, 1999), starring Bruce Willis and Haley Joel Osment, had taken $679.4 million (£[illegible] million) worldwide by April 2000.

MOST FILMED HISTORICAL FIGURE
The French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte has been portrayed in 177 films since 1897.

MOST FILMED HORROR CHARACTER
Count Dracula, who was created by Bram Stoker (Ireland), has been portrayed in more horror films than any other character. Representations of the Count or his immediate descendants outnumber those of his closest rival, Frankenstein's monster, by 161 to 117.

MOST FILMED AUTHOR
A total of 394 feature films and TV movies based on plays by William Shakespeare have been made to date. *Hamlet* has proved the most popular choice of play for filmmakers, with 75 versions made, followed by *Romeo And Juliet* with 51 and *Macbeth* with 33. Recent adaptations include *William Shakespeare's Romeo And Juliet* (USA, 1996) and *O* (USA, 2000), based on *Othello*.

↓ HIGHEST-GROSSING FRENCH FILM
Cyrano de Bergerac (Fr, 1990) grossed $15.1 million (£8.45 million) worldwide, a record for a French-language film, and made its leading actor Gerard Depardieu (right) an international star.

HIGHEST-GROSSING INDIAN FILM
Hum Aapke Hain Koun..! (India, 1994) took over $63.8 million (£40.4 million) in its first year.

HIGHEST-GROSSING AFRICAN FILM
Sankofa (1993), directed by Haile Gerima (Ethiopia), grossed $2.691 million (£1.73 million) in the USA alone. The film was shot in Germany, Burkina Faso and Ghana.

HIGHEST-GROSSING ITALIAN FILM
La Vita È Bella (*Life Is Beautiful*) (Ita, 1997), written by and starring Roberto Benigni, had a worldwide gross of $229 million (£143 million).

HIGHEST-GROSSING FILM IN GERMAN
Das Boot (Ger, 1981), the story of a World War II submarine crew, took $84.9 million (£54.4 million) worldwide.

Cartoons

LONGEST-RUNNING NEWSPAPER COMIC STRIP
The Katzenjammer Kids was first published in the *New York Journal* on 12 Dec 1897 and is still running. Created by Rudolph Dirks, it is now drawn by Hy Eisman.

LONGEST-RUNNING COMIC STRIP BY ONE ARTIST
Jim Russell (Australia) has been drawing the comic strip *The Potts* since Jan 1940. It was published in the newspaper *Smiths Weekly* until 1950, since when it has appeared daily in the *Melbourne Herald*.

MOST EDITIONS OF A COMIC
A total of 7,561 issues of the Mexican comic *Pepín* were published between 4 March 1936 and 23 Oct 1956. At the height of its popularity, sales were estimated at 320,000 copies a day, with twice that number being sold on Sundays. *Pepín* finally started outselling its closest rival, *Chamaco Chico*, in the 1940s, when Yolanda Vargas Dulche joined the writing team, creating characters such as the villainess Raratonga the Jungle Queen.

MOST PROLIFIC CARTOONIST
Joe Martin (USA), the creator of *Mr Boffo*, *Willy 'N Ethel*, *Cats With Hands* and *Porterfield*, draws 1,300 cartoon strips and single panels a year. He has had 20,865 cartoons published since 1978.

MOST SYNDICATED LIVING CARTOONIST
The strips *The Wizard of Id* and *BC*, created by Johnny Hart (USA), are each syndicated to 1,300 newspapers worldwide.

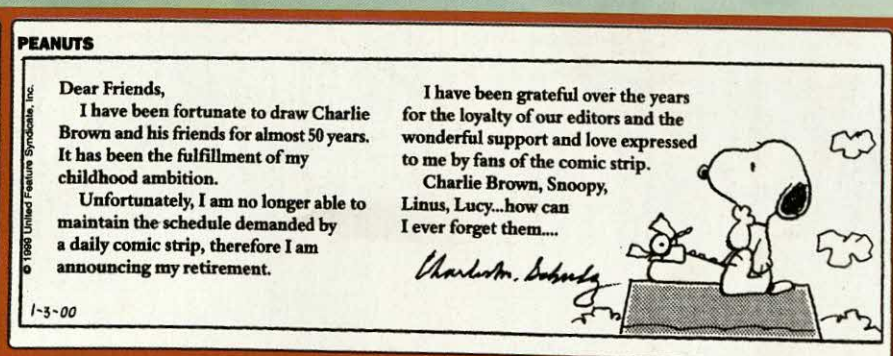
MOST FILMED CARTOON CHARACTER
Zorro has been portrayed in 69 films to date. Created by Johnston McCulley, he was also the first comic strip character to be the subject of a major feature film, *The Mark of Zorro* (USA, 1920) starring Douglas Fairbanks. The most recent Zorro film, *The Mask Of Zorro* (USA, 1998), saw the identity of the masked avenger pass from Anthony Hopkins to Antonio Banderas.

MOST EXPENSIVE ANIMATED FILM
DreamWorks' *The Prince of Egypt* (USA, 1998) cost $60 million (£36.2 million) to make. Directed by Brenda Chapman and Steve Hickner, it was in production for four years and was worked on by 350 artists and animators. It contains 1,192 special effects, one of which – the four-minute Red Sea sequence – took an estimated 350,000 hours to complete.

MOST CONSECUTIVE OSCAR NOMINATIONS
Aardman Animation, based in Bristol, UK, received six Oscar nominations for Best Short Animated Film between 1991 and 1997. Three of the nominations, *Creature Comforts*, *The Wrong Trousers* and *A Close Shave*, all directed by Aardman founder Nick Park, went on to win Oscars.

LONGEST-RUNNING PRIMETIME ANIMATED SERIES
The Simpsons, created by cartoonist Matt Groening (USA), is the longest-running primetime animated TV series in the world, with a total of 2[illegible] episodes shown on the Fox network to 15 March 20[illegible]. Originally developed in 19[illegible] as a set of 30-second inserts for Fox's *The Tracey Ullman Show*, *The Simpsons* has featured the voices of 24 celebrities – a record number for an animated series.

EARLIEST FULL-LENGTH ANIMATED FILM
The first full-length feature cartoon was *El apóstol* (Argentina, 1917), which was made by Don Federico Valle.



⊙ MOST SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP
Peanuts by Charles Schulz (USA) appears in 2,620 different newspapers in 75 countries. Schulz published his last strip on 3 Jan 2000 and died on 12 Feb.

⊙ LONGEST CARTOON STRIP
The longest cartoon strip is 53.5 m (175 ft 6 in) long and 1.5 m (4 ft 11 in) high. It was drawn on 20 panels by 26 artists at the University of Alcalá, Spain, on 17 Oct 1999.

EARLIEST ANIMATED TV SERIES
Alex Anderson and Jay Ward's syndicated cartoon series *Crusader Rabbit* was produced in San Francisco, California, USA, from 1949 to 1951. The show, each episode of which ran for five minutes, was made in colour, despite the fact that there was no colour television at this time.

MOST CONVULSIONS CAUSED BY A TV SHOW
On 16 Dec 1997 more than 700 children in Japan had to be rushed to hospital when an episode of the TV show *Pokémon* caused them to have convulsions. A total of 208 children aged three and above were detained in hospital after the broadcast. According to experts, the convulsions were caused by a sequence in which red lights flashed from the eyes of the character Pikachu.

MOST VALUABLE CARTOON CELLS
In 1989 a black-and-white drawing from Walt Disney's *Orphan's Benefit* (USA, 1934), depicting Donald Duck being punched by an orphan, raised £171,250 ($280,000) at Christie's, London, UK.

One of the 150,000 colour cells from Disney's *Snow White* (USA, 1937) was sold in 1991 for $203,000 (£115,000).

MOST VALUABLE CARTOON POSTER
A poster for the Walt Disney short *Alice's Day At Sea* (USA, 1924) was sold at Christie's, London, UK, for a record £23,100 ($36,534) in April 1994.

BIGGEST CARTOON MUSEUM
The International Museum of Cartoon Art in Boca Raton, Florida, USA, has a collection of over 160,000 original animated drawings from 50 different countries. The collection also includes 10,000 books on animation and 1,000 hours of cartoons, interviews and documentaries on film and tape.

← MOST SWEARING IN AN ANIMATED FILM
South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut (USA, 1999), which lasts for 81 minutes, contains 399 swear words and 128 offensive gestures.

TV 1

⊙ SHORTEST TV SITCOMS

The Gaveltons, a sitcom about a family that will sue anyone, has an airtime of just 60 seconds. It has been shown on the US network TV Land since July 1998, where it has now been joined by two other 60-second 'blipcoms': *All's Well* and *Spin & Cutter*.

LONGEST-RUNNING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME
The BBC's live magazine programme *Blue Peter* was first aired on 16 Oct 1958. Originally presented by Christopher Trace and Leila Williams, it had had a total of 28 presenters as of April 2000, the longest-serving being John Noakes, who fronted the show from 1965 to 1978. *Blue Peter* was first broadcast once a week, but has gone out three times a week since 1995.

LONGEST-RUNNING DRAMA
The longest-running drama serial is Granada's soap *Coronation Street*. The show ran twice weekly on the UK's ITV network from 9 Dec 1960 to 20 Oct 1989, since when viewers have been treated to a third weekly episode.

LONGEST-RUNNING TV SHOW
NBC's *Meet The Press* was first transmitted on 6 Nov 1947 and has been shown weekly from 12 Sept 1948. As of 2 April 2000, 2,605 episodes had been aired.

MOST WATCHED TV NETWORK
The state-owned station China Central Television (CCTV) is transmitted to 84% of all viewers in China. It is estimated that more than 900 million people in the country have access to television.

BIGGEST GLOBAL TV NETWORK
CNN International can be seen in over 149 million households in 212 countries and territories, through a network of 23 satellites.

MOST TV EPISODES
Since 1949, over 150,000 episodes of the TV show *Bozo The Clown* have been broadcast. The programme is aired daily on 150 stations in the USA.

BIGGEST TV AUDIENCE FOR A LIVE BROADCAST
The worldwide TV audience for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales on 6 Sept 1997 was estimated at 2.5 billion.

MOST EXPENSIVE PROGRAMME
In Jan 1998 NBC agreed to pay Warner Brothers a total of $10–13 million (£6.1–7.9 million) for each one-hour episode of the hospital drama *ER*, which has a weekly audience of 33 million in the USA. They had previously paid $1.6 million (£1 million) per episode. The deal will run for three years, working out at $6[illegible]–858 million (£396–521 million) for 66 episodes.

MOST EXPENSIVE MINI-SERIES
The 14-episode TV mini-series *War And Remembrance* cost $110 million (£61 million) to make over three years. It was aired on US network ABC in two parts, in Nov 1988 and March 1989, and won the 1989 Best Mini-series Emmy.

MOST EXPENSIVE DOCUMENTARY SERIES
The six-part BBC documentary series *Walking With Dinosaurs* cost a total of £6.1 million ($9.9 million), or £37,654 ($61,112) per minute, to produce. Filmed in various locations around the world, the show, each episode of which lasted 27 minutes, used computer graphics and animatronics to depict how dinosaurs lived, reproduced and finally became extinct.

⊙ SHORTEST MUSIC VIDEO

In 1994 US death metal band Brutal Truth produced a 2.18-second-long video to accompany their track 'Collateral Damage'. The video features a sequence of flashframes depicting popular US conservative cultural icons of the late 20th century, and ends with a shot of an explosion.

MOST EXPENSIVE TV RIGHTS FOR A FILM
The US network Fox paid a record $80 million (£50 million) for the TV rights to Steven Spielberg's *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* (USA, 1997) in June 1997, before the film's international release.

BEST-SELLING VIDEO
The world's best-selling video is Walt Disney's animated feature *The Lion King* (USA, 1994), which has sold more than 55 million copies worldwide. This includes 20 million copies in the first six days after its release.

BIGGEST VIDEO RETAILER
Blockbuster is the world's largest video retailer, with a 30% market share. The first store opened in Dallas, Texas, USA, in Oct 1985 and the company now operates 4,438 branches in the USA and 2,005 in 26 other countries.

⊙ MOST SPIN-OFF SHOWS
The Japanese series *Ultraman*, which aired between July 1966 and April 1967, spawned 14 spin-off series and several movies. The title character (left) is seen battling Kodalar, a sea monster, in *Ultraman: The Alien Invasion* (Japan, 1993).

MOST EXPENSIVE MUSIC VIDEO
The video for Michael and Janet Jackson's hit single 'Scream' (1995), directed by Mark Romanek (USA), cost a record $7 million (£4.4 million) to make.

LONGEST MUSIC VIDEO
Michael Jackson's part feature film, part music video *Ghosts* (1996) is 35 minutes long. It was based on an original concept by cult horror writer Stephen King.

MOST PARTICIPANTS IN A TV QUIZ
The All-Japan High-School Quiz Championship, which was televised by NTV on 31 Dec 1983, had a record 80,799 participants.

MOST COST-EFFECTIVE COMMERCIAL
Macintosh, a TV commercial based on George Orwell's novel *1984*, cost $600,000 (£360,000) to produce and $1 million (£600,000) to show. Directed by Ridley Scott, its impact was so great and its recall so high, that it is considered to be the most cost-effective commercial ever made. It was shown only once – in 1984.

SHORTEST TV COMMERCIAL
An advertisement lasting only four frames (there are 30 frames in a second) was aired on KING TV's *Evening Magazine* on 29 Nov 1993. The ad was for Bon Marche's Frango sweets.

↓ MOST SYNDICATED TELEVISION GAME SHOW
The format of *Wheel of Fortune* has been syndicated to 54 different countries, and the show reaches 100 million viewers every week. First shown on US television in Jan 1975, when it was presented by Chuck Woolery and Susan Stafford, it is currently fronted in the USA by Pat Sajak and Vanna White (left).

TV 2

RICHEST ACTRESS ON TV
Helen Hunt, the star of *Mad About You*, is the world's wealthiest TV actress, with a net worth of $31 million (£18.7 million) in 1998.

HIGHEST ANNUAL EARNINGS BY AN ACTOR
Jerry Seinfeld, the former star of *Seinfeld*, earned an estimated $267 million (£159.5 million) in 1998, according to the 1999 *Forbes* Celebrity 100 List – a record for any actor in a single year.

HIGHEST ANNUAL EARNINGS BY A TALK SHOW HOST
According to the 2000 *Forbes* Celebrity 100 List, Oprah Winfrey earned more than $150 million (£93 million) in 1999.

HIGHEST-EARNING NEWS BROADCASTER
Barbara Walters (USA) reputedly earns in excess of $13 million (£8.23 million) a year as news correspondent and co-anchor of *ABC News Magazine*, *20/20*, *The Barbara Walters Specials* and *The View*. She has interviewed every US president since Richard Nixon and made journalistic history in Nov 1977 by arranging the first ever joint interview of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel.

HIGHEST ANNUAL EARNINGS BY A TV PRODUCER
David E Kelley (USA), the creator of *Ally McBeal* and *The Practice*, was the leading TV producer on the 2000 *Forbes* Celebrity 100 List, with earnings of $118 million (£73 million) in 1999. He is also the highest-earning active TV writer.

HIGHEST-EARNING TV WRITER
The highest-earning TV writer ever is Larry David (USA), co-writer of the hit comedy *Seinfeld*. He earned an estimated $242 million (£146 million) in 1998, coming second only to Jerry Seinfeld on the 1999 *Forbes* Celebrity 100 List. David left the show in 1996, returning to pen its final episode in 1998.

MOST POPULAR TV STAR IN JAPAN
Akashiya Sanma polled 56.8% in Video Research (Japan) Ltd's 1999 survey of television popularity, making him the country's most popular TV star.

⊙ MOST INTERACTIVE DRAMA-DOCUMENTARY
In the show *Big Brother*, broadcast in the Netherlands from 16 Sept to 30 Dec 1999, nine people's lives became a daily half-hour 'live soap' after they were placed in a house fitted with 24 cameras and 59 microphones. More than 4.7 million viewers phoned and e-mailed to vote on which contestants would leave the programme, and which one would remain to win $125,000 (£77,000).

LONGEST TIME IN ONE ROLE
William Roache has been playing the character Ken Barlow without a break since the first episode of the British soap opera *Coronation Street* on 9 Dec 1960. Barlow, who was first seen as a student, has had three wives and 23 girlfriends and survived a suicide attempt.

⊙ BIGGEST TV CASH PRIZE
On 24 Dec 1999 Ian Woodley (left of picture) won a record £1 million ($1.6 million) after correctly answering four questions in a quiz on *TFI Friday*, a British talk show hosted by Chris Evans (right). Evans had awarded the same sum to the winner of a quiz on his Virgin Radio show the previous day.

MOST APPEARANCES BY AN EXTRA
British actor Vic Gallucci has appeared in the ITV police drama *The Bill* more than 819 times since making his debut in 1989. Gallucci plays Detective Constable Tom Bailey, who is often seen in the background leaning against filing cabinets and shuffling papers.

LONGEST TIME SURVIVED ON COMPETITION WINNINGS
In Jan 1998 the Japanese programme *Denpa Shonen*, shown on Nippon Television Network (NTV), challenged a viewer named 'Nasubi' to win 1 million Japanese yen (the equivalent of $7,7[illegible] or £4,798) by taking part in magazine and radio competitions. Naked, he was locked into an apartment fitted with CCTV cameras, from where his travails were broadcast to the nation on a weekly basis. Nasubi reached his target after 335 days, and was released back into society after a celebratory trip to South Korea.

BIGGEST TV CONTRACT
In Sept 1998 Oprah Winfrey signed a $150-million (£90-million) contract with King World Productions that commits her to hosting the talk show *Oprah* through to the 2001/02 TV season. She received a cheque for $75 million (£45 million) in Oct 1998, and another for the same amount in June 2000.

MOST PROLIFIC TV PRODUCERS
Mark Goodson, a former radio announcer who co-founded US company Goodson–Todman Productions with Bill Todman in 1946, has produced a total of 39,312 episodes of game shows to date, totalling over 21,831 hours of airtime. Goodson–Todman Productions has been responsible for a string of successful US game shows, including *Winner Takes All*, *What's My Line*, *Stop The Music* and *The Price Is Right*.

Aaron Spelling has produced a total of 3,842 hours of television since 1956, comprising 3,578 hours of TV series and 264 hours of TV movies. His output has included *Charlie's Angels*, *Dynasty*, *Melrose Place* and *Beverly Hills 90210*, which features his daughter Tori.

↓ BIGGEST AUDIENCE FOR A TV SERIES
Baywatch is the most widely viewed TV series in the world, with an estimated weekly audience of more than 1.1 billion in 142 countries. Since June 1996, it has been broadcast on every continent except Antarctica.

Music

BIGGEST ROCK CONCERT ATTENDANCES
An estimated 195,000 people paid $18 (£10) to attend a performance by Norwegian band A-Ha at the Rock In Rio festival, Maracanã Municipal Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in April 1990.

Rod Stewart's free concert at Copacabana Beach, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on New Year's Eve 1994 reportedly attracted an audience of 3.5 million.

The largest paying audience ever attracted by a solo performer was an estimated 184,000, in the Maracanã Municipal Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to hear Paul McCartney on 21 April 1990.

CONCERTS ON MOST CONTINENTS IN 24 HOURS
British heavy metal band Def Leppard played concerts on three continents on 23 Oct 1995. Each concert lasted for at least one hour and was attended by 200 or more people. The first began at 12:23 am at Tangier, Morocco. The band then flew to London, UK, for the second concert and finished their tour in Vancouver, Canada, at 11:33 pm on the same day.

BEST-SELLING ALBUM
The best-selling album of all time is *Thriller* by Michael Jackson, with global sales of over 47 million copies since 1982.

BEST-SELLING ALBUM BY A GROUP
The best-selling album in the world by a group is *Their Greatest Hits 1971-75* by The Eagles, sales of which are estimated at more than 25 million.

BEST-SELLING DEBUT ALBUM
The top-selling debut album is *Boston* by the US rock band Boston, which has sold 16 million copies since its release in 1976.

MOST NO 1 SINGLES
The Beatles have had the most US No 1 hits, with 20.

The Beatles and Elvis Presley had the most UK No 1s, with 17 each.

MOST WEEKS AT NO 1 ON THE US SINGLES CHART
'Near You' by Francis Craig topped the US chart for 17 weeks in 1947.

The longest chart-topper since 1955 has been 'I Will Always Love You' by Whitney Houston, which was at No 1 for 14 weeks in 1992.

Elvis Presley's 18 No 1 singles have occupied the top of the chart for a total of 80 weeks.

MOST WEEKS AT NO 1 ON THE UK SINGLES CHART
Bryan Adams spent a record 16 consecutive weeks at No 1 from July to Oct 1991 with '(Everything I Do) I Do It For You', the theme from the film *Robin Hood: Prince Of Thieves* (USA, 1991).

⊙ BEST-SELLING SINGLE
The biggest-selling single since the charts began is Elton John's 'Something About The Way You Look Tonight'/'Candle In The Wind 1997', with sales of 33 million worldwide. As of 20 Oct 1997, it had also reached No 1 in 22 countries. All Elton John's royalties and record company PolyGram's profits have been donated to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

MOST SUCCESSFUL SONGWRITERS
The most successful songwriters in terms of No 1 singles are John Lennon and Paul McCartney, formerly of The Beatles. McCartney is credited as writer on 32 No 1 hits in the US, to Lennon's 26 (with 23 co-written), whereas Lennon authored 29 UK chart-toppers, to McCartney's 28 (with 25 co-written).

MOST COMPLETE DOMINATION OF THE US SINGLES CHART
On 4 April 1964 The Beatles held the Top 5 positions on the US Hot 100 and placed a further seven titles elsewhere in the chart. The Top 5, in descending order, were: 'Can't Buy Me

⊙ LONGEST ALBUM TITLE
The album with the longest title to reach the US chart is Fiona Apple's 90-word *When The Pawn Hits The Conflicts He Thinks Like A King What He Knows Throws The Blows When He Goes To The Fight And He'll Win The Whole Thing 'Fore He Enters The Ring There's No Body To Batter When Your Mind is Your Might So When You Go Solo, You Hold Your Own Hand And Remember That Depth Is The Greatest Of Heights And If You Know Where You Stand, Then You'll Know Where To Land And If You Fall It Won't Matter, Cuz You Know That You're Right,* released on 9 Nov 1999. The title is a poem Apple wrote after reading a bad review of her work.

BEST-SELLING ALBUM BY A TEENAGE SOLO ARTIST →
...*Baby One More Time* by Britney Spears had passed the 12 million sales mark in the USA alone by Feb 2000. It was also a top-seller in many other countries.

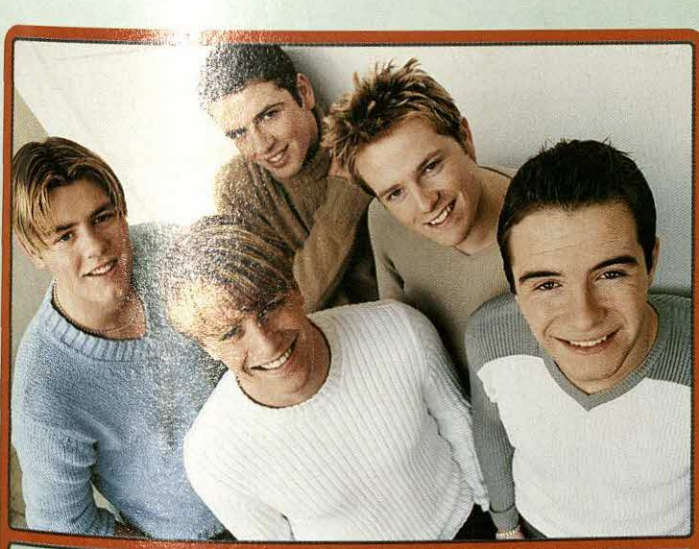
Love', 'Twist And Shout', 'She Loves You', 'I Want To Hold Your Hand' and 'Please Please Me'.

LONGEST TOUR BY A DEAD ARTIST
'Elvis – The Concert' became the first live tour starring a dead performer when it started in the USA in the spring of 1998. During the concert, a video of Elvis Presley singing and playing was projected, while his original musicians from the 1970s performed on stage.

HIGHEST-EARNING POP STAR
In 1998 Celine Dion ranked 12th on *Forbes* magazine's list of the 40 richest entertainers, with an income of $56.5 million (£33.5 million), making her the highest-earning pop star in a single year. Her successes include 'My Heart Will Go On', the theme from *Titanic* (USA, 1997).

MOST PSEUDONYMS USED BY POP STARS
John Lennon used 15 pseudonyms: Long John; Dr Winston Booker Table & the Maître Ds; Dwarf McDougal; Rev Fred Ghurkin; Dr Winston O'Ghurkin; Dr Winston O'Boogie and Los Paranois; Musketeer Gripweed; Dr Dream; Mel Torment; Dr Winston O'Reggae; Honorary John St John Johnson; Kaptain Kundalini; John O'Cean; Joel Nohnn; and Dad.

The record for a living star is 11. This is held jointly by Lennon's former colleague George Harrison, whose pseudonyms include The George O'Hara Smith Singers, L'Angelo Misterioso and Ohnothimagain, and Prince Rogers Nelson, known, among other names, as Prince, The Artist Formerly Known As Prince, The Artist and ♀.



⊙ FIRST FIVE SINGLES IN AT NO 1
In 1999–2000 Irish boy band Westlife became the only group to have their first five singles enter the UK chart at No 1.

Dance, Rap & R&B

MOST DANCE CLUB PLAY SINGLES
Madonna has had a total of 22 No 1 singles on the *Billboard* Dance Club Play chart in the USA. Her hits include 'Like A Virgin', 'Vogue', 'Beautiful Stranger' and 'American Pie'.

The group with the most No 1s is C+C Music Factory (comprising Robert Clivillés and David Cole), with eight.

The male solo performer with the most No 1s is Prince, who has reached the top seven times.

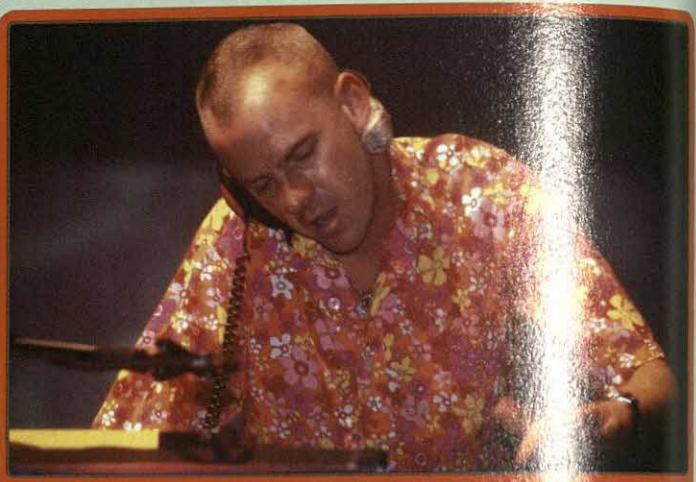
MOST SIMULTANEOUS HITS BY A DANCE ACT
On 20 April 1996 all 10 hit singles by the UK group Prodigy were in the UK Top 100. The band, then comprising Liam Howlett, Keith Flint, Leeroy Thornhill and Maxim Reality, had their first No 1, 'Firestarter', in March, and their nine previous singles were then re-released.

MOST NO 1 RAP SINGLES
LL Cool J (real name James Todd Smith) has had eight No 1s on the *Billboard* Rap Chart, including 'Loungin' and 'I'm That Type Of Guy'. He is on the Def Jam label, which holds the record for the company with the most rap No 1s. Other artists on the label have included the Beastie Boys, Run DMC and Public Enemy.

BEST-SELLING GANGSTA RAP ALBUM
Life After Death by The Notorious BIG, aka Biggie Smalls (real name Christopher Wallace), has sold 10 million copies in the USA alone. The album first charted a month after the rapper was murdered in March 1997.

OLDEST RAPPERS
Japanese twin sisters Kin Narita and Gin Kanie were born on 1 Aug 1892. For their 100th birthdays in 1992, they recorded a 'granny rap' record that reached the Japanese pop charts. Kin died at the age of 107 on 23 Jan 2000.

FASTEST RAP ARTIST
Rebel XD of Chicago, Illinois, USA, rapped 674 syllables in 54.9 seconds at the Hair Bear Recording Studio, Alsip, Illinois, on 27 Aug 1992. This represents an average of 12.2 syllables per second.



⊙ BEST-SELLING BIG BEAT ALBUM
You've Come A Long Way Baby by Fatboy Slim (real name Norman Cook) has sold over 3 million copies and was crucial in popularizing the 'big beat' sound. The album, released in Oct 1998, includes the hits 'The Rockafeller Skank', 'Right Here, Right Now' and 'Praise You'.

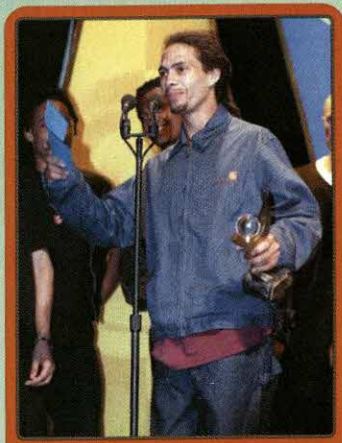
MOST SUCCESSFUL RAP PRODUCER
Sean 'Puffy' Coombs, aka Puff Daddy, is the most successful rap producer, having been responsible for four singles that consecutively headed the US rap chart for a record 36 weeks in 1997. These hits included 'I'll Be Missing You', Puff Daddy's tribute to The Notorious BIG (see 'Best-Selling Gangsta Rap Album').

⊙ BEST-SELLING HIP-HOP ALBUM
CrazySexyCool (1994) by TLC (T-Boz, Left-Eye and Chilli) has reached sales of 11 million in the USA, according to the RIAA. This makes it the best-selling hip hop/rap album ever, surpassing MC Hammer's *Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em* (1990).

BEST-SELLING JAZZ-FUNK ALBUM
Travelling Without Moving by the UK band Jamiroquai has sold more than [illegible] million albums globally since its release in 1996. Jamiroquai, led by Jason Kay, have sold 11 million albums in total.

FIRST COMPLETELY SAMPLED ALBUM
Entroducing (199[illegible]) by DJ Shadow (real name Josh Davis) was the first album to be recorded with nothing but sampled sounds.

LONGEST CHART SPAN (R&B)
The R&B artist with the longest span of US No 1 pop hits is Michael Jackson. His first solo No 1 was 'Ben' in Oct 1972 and he last topped that chart 22 years 11 months later with 'You Are Not Alone' in Sept 1995. The latter was also the first ever single to enter the US chart at No 1. Jackson topped the US chart as lead singer of the Jackson 5 four times before his first solo No 1.



⊙ BEST-SELLING DRUM 'N' BASS ALBUM
New Forms by Roni Size/Reprazent has sold over 760,000 copies around the world. The album won the Mercury Music Prize in 1997.

← BEST-SELLING CLUB DANCE COMPILATION
The Ministry of Sound's *The Annual II*, mixed by Pete Tong and Boy George, has sold over 610,000 units since its release in 1996. The Ministry of Sound opened as a nightclub in London, UK, in 1990 and has since expanded into fashion and publishing as well as CDs.

World Music

MOST SUCCESSFUL COUNTRY ARTISTS
Garth Brooks is the most successful country recording artist of all time, with album sales of 92 million. Despite his enormous success on the US album chart, Brooks did not have a US Top 100 single until Dec 1998, with 'It's Your Song'.

Reba McEntire is the biggest-selling female country vocalist in the USA, with 13 platinum and seven gold albums to her name by Feb 2000.

Kim Brooks and Ronnie Dunn are the most successful country duo of all time. Six of their albums have sold over 1 million copies, and 12 of their singles have reached No 1, including 'Boot Scootin' Boogie' (1992), 'Little Miss Honky Tonk' (1995) and 'Husbands And Wives' (1998).

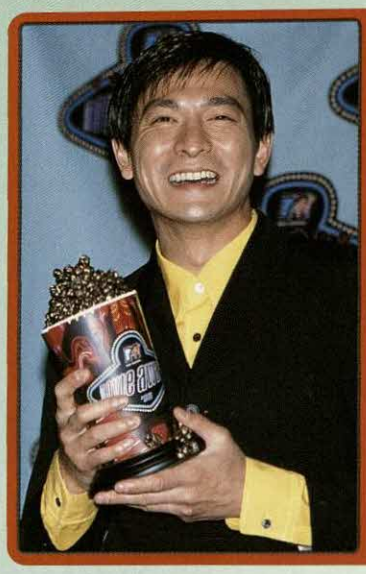
BEST-SELLING COUNTRY ALBUM
Come On Over by Shania Twain had sold over 17 million copies in North America by April 2000. The album includes the hit 'Man! I Feel Like A Woman'.

BEST-SELLING LATIN ARTISTS
Spanish singer Julio Iglesias is the most successful Latin music star in the world, with reported global sales of more than 200 million albums. His album *Julio* (1983) was the first foreign-language album to sell more than 2 million copies in the USA.

Cuban-born singer Gloria Estefan is the most successful female Latin artist in the world. Her current total world sales stand at more than 35 million.

LONGEST SALSA CAREER
Singer Celia Cruz began her career with the Cuban band Sonora Matancera in 1950 before moving to the USA in 1960. She has recorded over 50 albums, the most recent of which include *Celia Cruz and Friends: A Night Of Salsa Live* and *Angelitos Negros* (2000).

BEST-SELLING SON ALBUM
Buena Vista Social Club (1997) has sold over 4 million copies worldwide. It brought together some of Cuba's most respected musicians, including Ruben Gonzalez, Ibrahim Ferrer and Compay Segundo.



⊙ MOST CANTO-POP AWARDS
As of April 2000, Hong Kong crooner Andy Lau had won an unprecedented 29 awards for a singing career that began in 1988. He has sold 23 million albums, 4.4 million in 1999 alone, and has cemented his popularity in the world's Mandarin-speaking areas with recordings in putonghua, or standard Chinese. Between 1981 and 1999 he featured in 101 movies.

BEST-SELLING REGGAE ALBUM
Legend (1984) by Bob Marley is the best-selling reggae album of all time. In the UK, where it topped the chart, it has had certified sales of 1.8 million, and although it has never reached the Top 40 in the USA it has sold more than 10 million copies there. The album's tracks include 'No Woman No Cry' and 'One Love'.

LONGEST INTERNATIONAL SITAR CAREER
Ravi Shankar (India) celebrated his 60th year as a classical sitarist in 1999. His first concert performance took place alongside his guru Allaudin Khan in 1939, and his first international concert was in New York City, USA, in 1956. He first achieved wide international acclaim when he gave sitar lessons to George Harrison of the Beatles.

MOST SUCCESSFUL BHANGRA BAND
Alaap, a UK-based bhangra band led by singer Channi Singh, were established in London, UK, in 1977 and are still performing today. Alaap have recorded a record 11 albums and performed on five continents.

Bhujangy, based in Birmingham, W Midlands, UK, have been performing since 1967 and were pioneers of the fusion of Punjabi folk songs and dance music now known as bhangra music. Singer Balbir Singh is the only remaining original member. Their biggest hit was 'Bhabiye Ankh Lad Gayi' (1975).

⊙ MOST QAWAALI RECORDINGS
Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan (Pakistan) recorded over 125 albums of Qawaali (the devotional music of the Sufi Muslims) before his death in 1997. He performed on several soundtracks, including *The Last Temptation Of Christ* (USA, 1988) and *Dead Man Walking* (USA, 1995), on which he duetted with Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam.

⊙ BIGGEST-SELLING SALSA ARTIST

Marc Anthony (US) is the top selling tropical salsa artist in the world. His second album, *Todo a Su Tiempo* (1995), sold over 800,000 copies in the USA and Puerto Rico. *Contra La Corriente* (1997) also earned him a gold disc, and 'I Need To Know' from his fourth album, *Marc Anthony*, sold over one million copies in the USA, reaching the Top 10 there and in Canada.

MOST SUCCESSFUL SOLO BHANGRA ARTIST

Malkit Singh has recorded 19 albums under his own name or as Golden Star since he started his career in 1985 with the hit 'Gur Nal Ishq Mittha' ('Sweeter Than Sugar Is Love'). Malkit's albums have sold over 4.9 million copies.

MOST RECORDINGS BY AN AFRICAN ARTIST

Fela Kuti (Nigeria) recorded 46 albums between 1969 and 1992. In the 1960s he also made 12 albums with the band Koola Lobitos.

BEST-SELLING RAI ARTIST

Algerian singer Khaled has sold over 3 million albums worldwide, including *Khaled*, which featured his first international hit, 'Didi'. His live album *1,2,3 Soleils*, recorded with fellow Algerian stars Rachid Taha and Faudel in 1999, sold a further million copies.

BIGGEST INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Since being founded by singer Peter Gabriel in 1982, WOMAD (World of Music, Arts and Dance) has presented more than 90 events on four continents, featuring artists from over 30 different countries.

↓ BEST-SELLING ALBUM BY A COUNTRY GROUP

The biggest-selling album by a country group is *Wide Open Spaces* by the Dixie Chicks (1998), which had sold 8 million copies in the USA by Dec 1999. It is also the only album by a country group or female group to enter the US pop chart at No 1.

Classical Music & Jazz

MOST PROLIFIC COMPOSER
Georg Philipp Telemann, a German composer of the late Baroque period, is the most prolific on record. His output included over 1,000 cantatas, masses, motets and psalms, 46 Passions, 40 operas, 600 overtures, 50 concertos and innumerable suites, quartets and sonatas for varying instrumental combinations.

MOST PROLIFIC SYMPHONIST
Johann Melchior Molter, a contemporary of Telemann, wrote over 170 symphonies.

OLDEST ORCHESTRA
The oldest symphony orchestra still in existence is the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig, Germany. Established in 1743 as the Grosses Concert, its current name dates back to 1781.

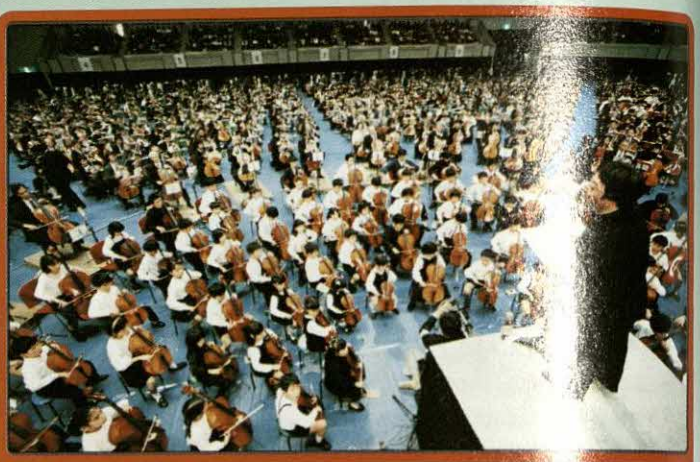
BIGGEST AUDIENCE FOR A CLASSICAL CONCERT
On 5 July 1986 an estimated 800,000 people attended a free open-air concert given by the New York Philharmonic, conducted by Zubin Mehta, on the Great Lawn of Central Park, New York City, USA.

BEST-SELLING CLASSICAL ALBUM
In Concert, which was recorded by José Carreras, Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti during the 1990 football World Cup Finals, has sold over 10.5 million copies to date.

YOUNGEST PERSON AT NO 1 IN THE CLASSICAL CHARTS
Welsh soprano Charlotte Church was just 12 years 9 months old when her debut album *Voice of an Angel* reached No 1 in the UK classical album charts on 9 Nov 1998. The album was certified double platinum in the UK within four weeks of its release.

MOST RECORDINGS BY A CONDUCTOR
Austrian conductor Herbert von Karajan, who died in 1989, made over 800 recordings in the course of his career.

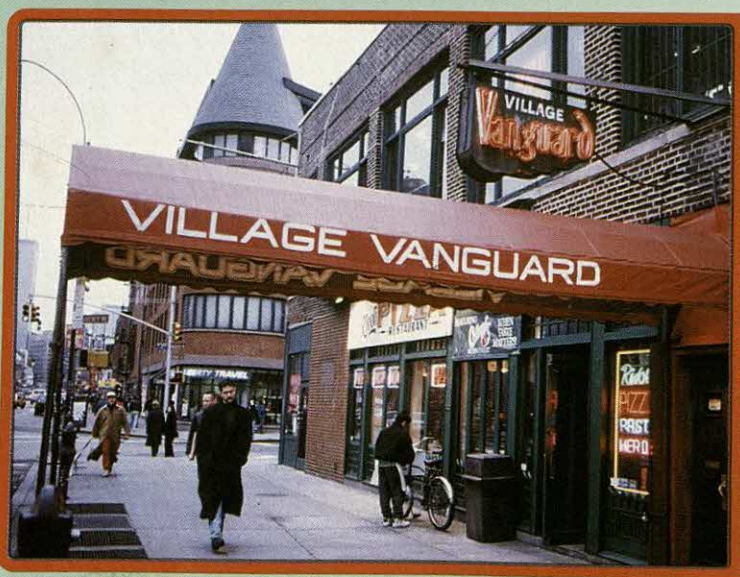
FEWEST NOTES IN A CLASSICAL PIECE
The 1952 piece *4'33"* by John Cage, written 'for any instrument', contains no notes at all. Instead, the performer sits quietly on the concert platform for 4 min 33 sec, while the 'music' comprises any noise that comes from the audience and from outside the concert hall.



⊙ BIGGEST CELLO ENSEMBLE
On 29 Nov 1998 a total of 1,013 cellists gathered in Kobe, Japan, to take part in a mass cello concert conducted by Kazuaki Momiyama. Nine pieces were performed, the longest of which was J.S. Bach's *Suite in D Major* at 8 min 26 sec.

LONGEST OPERA
The seven-act *The Life and Times of Joseph Stalin* by Robert Wilson lasted for 13 hr 25 min when performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York City, USA, from 14 to 15 Dec 1973.

The longest frequently performed opera is Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. An uncut version performed by



⊙ OLDEST JAZZ CLUB
The Village Vanguard cellar jazz club opened in New York City, USA, in the 1930s and has hosted mainstream jazz concerts ever since. Artists who have appeared there include John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Stan Getz, Wynton Marsalis and Thelonious Monk.

the Sadler's Wells company in London, UK, in 1968 lasted for 5 hr 15 min.

SHORTEST OPERA
The shortest published opera is *The Sands of Time* by Simon Rees and Peter Reynolds, which lasted for 4 min 9 sec when first performed by Rhian Owen and Dominic Burns at the Hayes, Cardiff, UK, on 27 March 1993. A 3-min 34-sec version was performed under the direction of Peter Reynolds at BBC Television Centre, London, UK, on 14 Sept 1993.

HIGHEST NOTE
The highest vocal note in the classical repertoire is G^3 (1,568 Hz), which occurs in Mozart's *Popolo di Tessaglia.*

LOWEST NOTE
The lowest vocal note in the classical repertoire is a low D (73.4Hz). It occurs in Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail.*

BIGGEST ORCHESTRA
On 23 Nov 1998 the world's largest orchestra, consisting of 3,503 musicians, assembled at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, UK, in an event organized by Music for Youth. They played Malcolm Arnold's *Little Suite No 2* in a performance conducted by Sir Simon Rattle.

MOST VALUABLE MUSIC MANUSCRIPTS
On 22 May 1987 London dealer James Kirkman paid a record £2.585 million ($4.136 million) at Sotheby's, London, UK, for a 508-page bound volume of nine complete symphonies in the hand of their composer, Mozart.

The highest price paid for a single music manuscript is £1.1 million ($2 million), for the autographed copy of the *Piano Sonata in E minor* (opus 90) by Beethoven, at Sotheby's, London, UK, on 6 Dec 1991.

BEST-SELLING JAZZ ARTIST
US saxophonist Kenny G has sold an estimated 55 million albums worldwide. This includes an estimated 14 million copies of *Breathless*, the best-selling jazz album of all time.

EARLIEST JAZZ RECORDS
The first jazz record to be released was 'Livery Stable Blues'/'Dixie Jazz Band One-Step', recorded by the Original Dixieland Jazz Band in Feb 1917 and released by Victor on 7 March 1917. The band had previously recorded 'Indiana'/'The Dark Town Strutters Ball' for the Columbia label, but this was not released until May 1917.

BIGGEST JAZZ FESTIVAL
The Festival International de Jazz de Montreal in Québec, Canada, is the world's largest jazz festival. Lasting 11 days, it attracts over 1.5 million people to watch around 400 concerts.

MOST VALUABLE JAZZ INSTRUMENT
A saxophone owned by Charlie Parker sold for a record £93,500 ($144,700) at Christie's, London, UK, in Sept 1994.

CLASSICAL CLEAN SWEEP →
In Nov 1999 Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli became the first vocalist to hold the top three places on the US classical album charts, with his albums *Sacred Arias, Aria – The Opera Album* and *Viaggio Italiano.*

Performance & Theatre

OLDEST TOURING CIRCUS
The oldest touring circus in the world is Circus Krone of Germany, which was established in 1904 and has been run continuously by the same family ever since.

OLDEST CIRCUS BUILDING
The oldest circus building is Cirque d'Hiver (originally Cirque Napoléon), which opened in Paris, France, on 11 Dec 1852.

BIGGEST CIRCUS CASTS
A total of 263 people and 175 animals took part in Barnum & Bailey Circus' 1890 US tour.

Cirque du Soleil's show *Fascination* had a cast of 61 people for its tour of Japan in 1992 – a record for a circus with no animal performers.

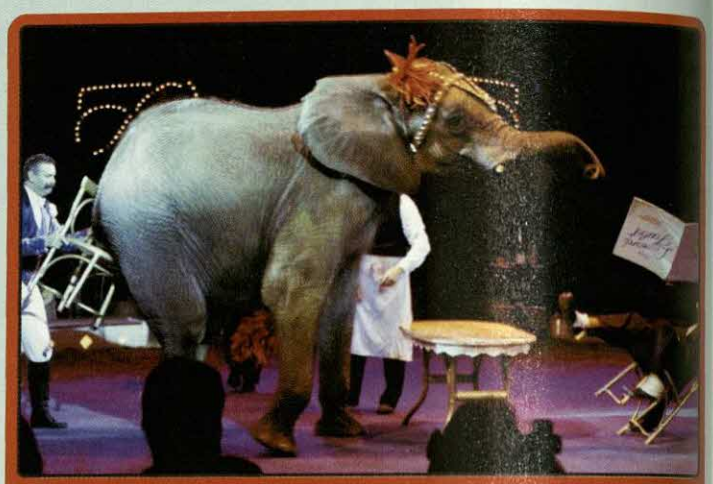
BIGGEST CIRCUS AUDIENCES
A performance given by Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus at the New Orleans Superdome, Louisiana, USA, on 14 Sept 1975 attracted an audience of 52,385.

The largest audience for a circus show in a tent was 16,702, a record set when Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus performed at Concordia, Kansas, USA, on 13 Sept 1924.

BIGGEST THEATRES
The largest building used for theatrical performances is the National People's Congress Building (Renmin Dahuitang) on Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China. Completed in 1959, it covers an area of 5.2 ha (12.8 acres) and can seat an audience of 10,000.

The biggest purpose-built theatre is the Perth Entertainment Centre in Perth, Western Australia, which opened on 26 Dec 1974. It has 8,500 seats, with a main stage area of 21.3 m x 13.7 m (70 ft x 45 ft).

BIGGEST STAGE
The Hilton Theater at the Reno Hilton, Reno, Nevada, USA, has the largest stage in the world, measuring 53.3 m x 73.5 m (175 ft x 241 ft). The stage has three main lifts, each capable of carrying 1,200 performers, and two turntables, each with a circumference of 19.1 m (62 ft 8 in). It is lit by up to 800 spotlights.



⊙ MOST-WATCHED CIRCUS
Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, which comprises the two independent circus troupes of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey, is watched by an average of 12 million people every year.

SMALLEST AMATEUR THEATRE
The Acorn Theatre in Seaforth, Western Australia, is the smallest theatre to stage regular amateur performances, with a maximum capacity of 28 seats. The group stages four productions a year.

MOST LEAD PERFORMANCES
Kanmi Fujiyama played the lead role in 10,288 performances by the Japanese comedy company Sochiku Shikigeki from Nov 1966 to June 1983.

MOST CONSECUTIVE PERFORMANCES IN ONE ROLE
James O'Neill (USA) gave over 6,000 consecutive performances in the title role of *The Count Of Monte Cristo* between 1883 and 1891.

MOST PERFORMANCES OF A ONE-MAN SHOW
Laxman Deshpande has performed his play *Varhad Nighalay Londonla* 1,930 times all over the world since the first production in Aurangabad, India, in Dec 1979. The three-hour comedy is about a marriage party from India going to London for the wedding of one of their sons, and Deshpande plays all 52 parts. He is also the play's producer and director.

⊙ MOST EXPENSIVE STAGE PRODUCTION
The stage adaptation of Disney's 1994 film *The Lion King* is the most expensive theatrical production on record. The Broadway show cost an estimated $15 million (£9.3 million) to stage, while the West End show (left, with Josette Bushell-Mingo as Rafiki) cost over £6.5 million ($10.4 million).

⊙ HIGHEST-GROSSING THEATRICAL PRODUCTION
By Dec 1999, the box office takings of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *The Phantom Of The Opera* had topped £2 billion ($3.25 billion). This surpasses the box office takings of *Titanic* (USA, 1997), the highest-grossing film ever.

SHORTEST PLAY
The world's shortest play is the 30-second *Breath*, written by the Irish-born playwright and novelist Samuel Beckett in 1969.

LONGEST PLAY
The longest known play is *The Non-Stop Connolly Show* by John Arden and Margaretta Darcey, which took 26 hr 30 min to perform at Liberty Hall, Dublin, Ireland, in 1975.

OLDEST PROFESSIONAL CHORUS LINE
The 11 dancers in the chorus line of the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies, a show staged at the Plaza Theatre, Palm Springs, California, USA, have a combined age of [illegible]. The youngest dancer is 54 and the oldest is 87.

LONGEST THEATRICAL RUN
The Mousetrap, a thriller written by Agatha Christie, opened at the Ambassadors Theatre, London, UK, on 25 Nov 1952 and moved to the adjacent St Martin's Theatre on 25 March 1974. The show's 19,700th performance took place on 30 March 2000.

LONGEST-RUNNING MUSICAL
The off-Broadway musical *The Fantasticks*, written by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, opened on 3 May 1960 at the Sullivan Street Playhouse, Greenwich Village, New York City, USA. By 3 May 2000 it had been performed 16,523 times.

LONGEST-RUNNING COMEDY
No Sex Please, We're British, written by Anthony Marriott and Alistair Foot and presented by John Gale, opened at the Strand Theatre, London, UK, on 3 June 1971. It transferred to the Duchess Theatre, London, on 2 Aug 1986 and had its 6,761th and final performance on 5 Sept 1987.

BIGGEST CAST OF BLIND ACTORS
Swatantryachi Yashogatha, a Marathi-language play first staged in Pune, India, on 2 Aug 1997, featured 88 blind actors.

BIGGEST HUMAN MOBILE
In 1996 a record-breaking 16 performers from the Circus of Horrors, which is based at Addlestone Moor, Surrey, UK, were suspended from a crane to form a human mobile in Munich, Germany.

GREATEST DISTANCE FLOWN BY A HUMAN ARROW
The Bulgarian performer Vesta Gueschkova, whose stage name was 'Airiana', was fired a record distance of 22.9 m (75 ft) from a crossbow at Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Tampa, Florida, USA, on 27 Dec 1995.

← LONGEST SHAKESPEARE PLAY
Hamlet is the longest of the 37 plays written by William Shakespeare, with a total of 4,042 lines and 29,551 words. Actors who have played the title role in recent years include Ralph Fiennes (left), Keanu Reeves, Kenneth Branagh and Mel Gibson.

Print Media

BIGGEST-SELLING NEWSPAPERS
The newspaper with the highest circulation is *Yomiuri Shimbun*, published in Tokyo, Japan. Established in 1874, it had a daily circulation of 14,385,464 by Jan 2000 – 10,203,513 for the morning edition and 4,181,951 for the evening edition.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, the youth paper of the former Soviet Communist Party, reached a peak daily circulation of 21.98 million copies in May 1990.

The eight-page weekly newspaper *Argumenty i Fakty* of Moscow, USSR (now Russia), sold a record 33,431,100 copies in May 1990, when it had an estimated readership of over 100 million.

MOST SYNDICATED COLUMNIST
Columns written by US agony aunt Ann Landers appear in over 1,200 newspapers and have an estimated readership of 90 million. Landers' only serious rival in the problem page market is her identical twin sister Abigail Van Buren, better known as 'Dear Abby'.

OLDEST NEWSPAPERS
There is a surviving copy of a news pamphlet published in Cologne, Germany, in 1470.

The oldest newspaper still being produced is the Swedish journal *Post och Inrikes Tidningar*, which was established in 1645 and is published by the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters.

MOST LETTERS TO NEWSPAPER EDITORS
Hakim Syed Irshad of Gujrat, Pakistan, had 602 letters published in various national newspapers over the course of almost 40 years. His most successful year was 1963, when he had 42 letters published.

MOST PROLIFIC CROSSWORD COMPILER
Roger Squires of Ironbridge, Shropshire, UK, has compiled over 53,000 crosswords to date. Two-thirds of them were cryptic, while the remaining third were quick crosswords.

HIGHEST MAGAZINE CIRCULATIONS
The syndicated colour magazine *Parade*, which is distributed with 340 different US Sunday newspapers, had a circulation of 37 million as of April 2000, the highest for any magazine in the world. With advertisements costing $629,600 (£395,700) per four-colour page, it is also the most expensive magazine in which to advertise.

The free magazine with the highest circulation is the Danish quarterly *Idé-nyt*, which specializes in homes and gardens. It is currently distributed to a total of 2.52 million readers.

SMALLEST NEWSPAPER
The Brazilian weekly journal *Vossa Senhoria* first published in 1995, measures just 3.5 cm x 2.5 cm (1.4 in x 1 in). Each issue has up to 16 pages, and includes photographs, drawings and advertising space.

BIGGEST BOOK SERIES
The *Doctor Who* series, now published by BBC Worldwide, is the largest fictional series built around one principal character. Approximately 150 titles were produced between 1977 and 1997 by the series' former publisher, Target Books, with many being reprinted and re-issued. Since BBC Worldwide took on the series in 1997, a further 82 titles have been published. In total, over 8 million copies have been sold. The original *Doctor Who* programme ran on BBC television from 1963 to 1989.

BIGGEST MAGAZINE
The biggest single issue of a magazine was the 10 Jan 1990 edition of *Shukan Jutaku Joho* (*Weekly Housing Information*), published in Japan by Recruit Company Ltd. The magazine, which cost $2.40 [illegible], had a record 1,940 pages.

MOST COVERS FOR ONE MAGAZINE ISSUE
The inaugural issue of *DPICT*, a bi-monthly magazine on camera culture, was published in the UK in April 2000 with [illegible] different, customized covers.

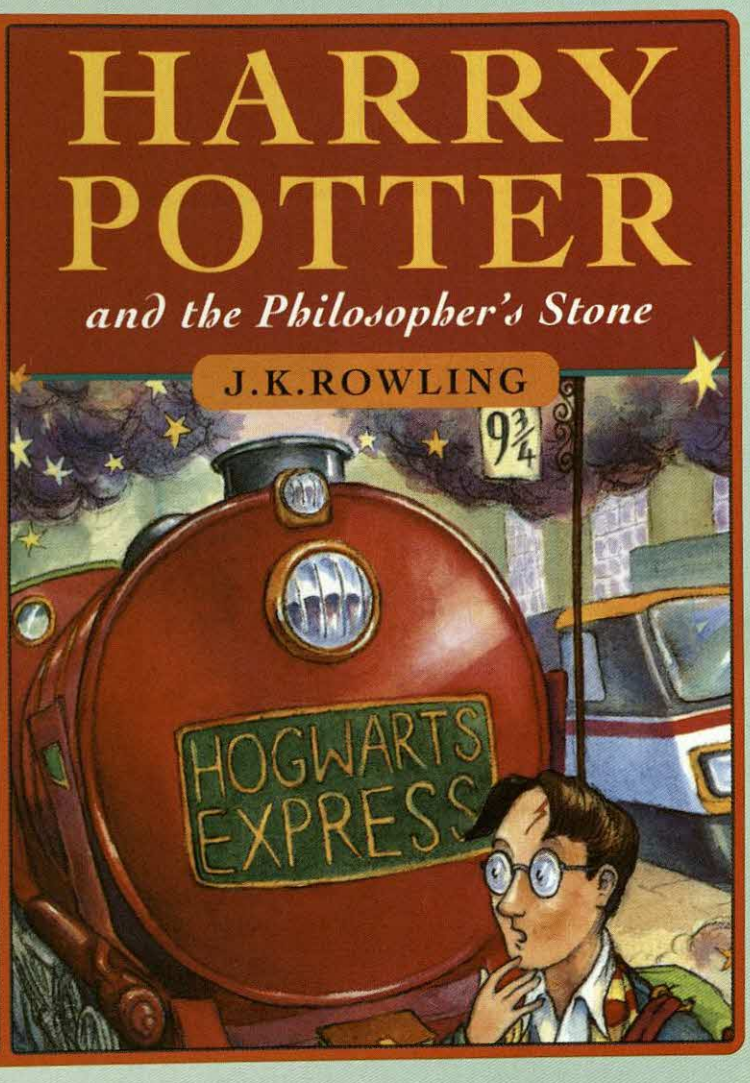
BEST-SELLING BOOKS
The world's best-selling and most widely distributed book is the Bible, with an estimated 2.5 billion copies sold since 1815. It has been translated into 2,233 languages and dialects.

Excluding non-copyright works, the best-selling book is *The Guinness Book Of Records* (now *Guinness World Records*), first published by Guinness Superlatives in Oct 1955. Global sales in 23[illegible] languages had surpassed the 3[illegible] million mark by April 200[illegible].

BEST-SELLING NOVELS
Three novels have been credited with sales of approximately 30 million, all of them by US female authors. They are *To Kill A Mockingbird* (1960) by Harper Lee; *Gone With The Wind* (1936) by Margaret Mitchell; and *Valley Of The Dolls* (1966) by Jacqueline Susann, which sold 6.8 million copies in the first six months after its release but is now out of print.

Alistair MacLean (UK) wrote a total of 30 novels, 28 of which have sold more than 1 million copies in the UK alone. His books have been translated into 28 languages, and 13 of them have been made into films. It is estimated that a novel by MacLean is purchased every 18 seconds.

⊙ BEST-SELLING CHILDREN'S BOOK SERIES IN ONE YEAR
In 1999 the first three books in the Harry Potter series, by JK Rowling (above), sold more than 18.5 million copies in the USA and more than 4.5 million copies in the UK and the Commonwealth. The first title in the series, *Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone*, sold over 1.5 million copies in the UK and the Commonwealth and 10.4 million copies in the USA (under the title *Harry Potter And The Sorcerer's Stone*), a record for a children's title in one year.



BEST-SELLING CHILDREN'S BOOK SERIES
The 80 titles in the *Goosebumps* series by RL Stine have sold a total of 220 million copies worldwide since the first book, *Welcome to Dead House*, was published by Scholastic Inc in 1992.

BEST-SELLING AUTHOR
The top-selling fiction writer of all time is Agatha Christie, the creator of the detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. Her 78 crime novels have sold an estimated 2 billion copies in 44 different languages, generating total royalties of around £2.5 million ($4 million) per year.

MOST PROLIFIC AUTHOR
British author Charles Hamilton (alias Frank Richards), the creator of the schoolboy character Billy Bunter, is estimated to have written between 72 and 75 million words during his career.

BEST-SELLING DIARY
The Diary Of Anne Frank, the young author's account of events that took place when her family and their friends were hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam, Netherlands, during World War II, has been translated into 55 languages and has sold more than 25 million copies.

BIGGEST PRINT RUNS
The initial print order for the German postcode directory, published by Deutsche Bundespost on 1 July 1993, was 42,300,000 copies.

The first print run of the English-language edition of *Guinness World Records 2000*, printed in Barcelona, Spain, in 1999, was 2,402,000 copies, a record for a full-colour hardback title.

Awards

⊙ MOST BEST ACTOR OSCARS
Tom Hanks is one of seven people who have won the Best Actor award twice, for *Philadelphia* (USA, 1993) and *Forrest Gump* (USA, 1994). He shares the record with Spencer Tracy, Fredric March, Gary Cooper, Marlon Brando, Jack Nicholson and Dustin Hoffman.

MOST OSCARS
Walt Disney won a record-breaking 26 Oscar awards from 64 nominations between 1932 and 1969, the last being awarded posthumously for *Winnie The Pooh And The Blustery Day* (USA, 1968). He also holds the record for the most Oscars won in a single year, with four in 1953 for Best Cartoon (*Toot, Whistle, Plunk And Boom*), Best Documentary Short (*The Alaskan Eskimo*), Best Documentary Feature (*The Living Desert*) and Best Two-Reel Short (*Bear Country*).

OLDEST OSCAR-WINNER
Jessica Tandy won Best Actress for *Driving Miss Daisy* (USA, 1990) aged 80 years 295 days.

YOUNGEST OSCAR-WINNER
Tatum O'Neal was 10 years 148 days old when she was voted Best Supporting Actress for *Paper Moon* (USA, 1973).

Shirley Temple was awarded an honorary Oscar at the age of six years 310 days in 1935.

MOST OSCARS BY A FILM
Two films have won 11 Oscars: *Ben-Hur* (USA, 1959), starring Charlton Heston; and *Titanic* (USA, 1997), which was directed by James Cameron.

MOST OSCAR NOMINATIONS FOR A FILM
All About Eve (USA, 1950) and *Titanic* (USA, 1997) both received a record 14 nominations.

MOST NOMINATIONS FOR A FILM WITHOUT AN OSCAR
Turning Point (USA, 1977) and *The Color Purple* (USA, 1986) both received 11 nominations but failed to win any Oscars.

MOST BEST DIRECTOR OSCARS
John Ford won four Oscars as Best Director, for *The Informer* (USA, 1935), *The Grapes Of Wrath* (USA, 1940), *How Green Was My Valley* (USA, 1941) and *The Quiet Man* (USA, 1952).

MOST BEST ACTRESS OSCARS
Katharine Hepburn won four Best Actress awards, for *Morning Glory* (USA, 1933), *Guess Who's Coming To Dinner* (USA, 1967), *The Lion In Winter* (UK, 1968 – award shared) and *On Golden Pond* (USA, 1981). She also had the longest award-winning career, spanning 48 years.

MOST BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR OSCARS
Walter Brennan won Oscars for Best Supporting Actor in *Come And Get It* (USA, 1936), *Kentucky* (USA, 1938) and *The Westerner* (USA, 1940).

MOST BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS OSCARS
The record is two, shared by Shelley Winters for her roles in *The Diary Of Anne Frank* (USA, 1959) and *A Patch Of Blue* (USA, 1965); and Dianne Wiest for *Hannah And Her Sisters* (USA, 1986) and *Bullets Over Broadway* (USA, 1994).

MOST VERSATILE AWARD-WINNER
Actress/singer/director Barbra Streisand has won a total of two Oscars, five Emmys, seven Grammys, seven Golden Globes and a special Tony in 1970 as Broadway Actress of the Decade.

LONGEST OSCAR SPEECH
The longest Oscar acceptance speech on record lasted for 5 min 30 sec. It was made at the 1942 Academy Awards by Greer Garson, who was voted Best Actress for her role in *Mrs Miniver* (USA, 1942).

MOST GRAMMYS
The Hungarian-born British conductor Sir Georg Solti won a record 31 Grammy awards (including a special Trustees' award presented in 1967) between 1958 and 1997.

MOST GRAMMYS BY A FEMALE ARTIST
Aretha Franklin (USA) has won a total of 15 Grammys to date, including a record 11 for Best R&B Female Vocal Performance.

⊙ MOST OSCARS FOR BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM BY ONE COUNTRY
Italy has won a total of 13 Oscars for Best Foreign Language Film. The most recent was for *Life Is Beautiful* (1997), which starred Roberto Benigni, Giorgio Cantarini and Nicoletta Braschi (left to right).

MOST GRAMMYS BY A SOLO POP PERFORMER
Stevie Wonder has won 19 Grammys since 1973.

MOST GRAMMYS BY A POP GROUP
The most Grammys won by a pop group is eight, by 5th Dimension.

MOST EMMYS BY AN ACTRESS
Candice Bergen has won the Best Actress (Comedy) Emmy five times, for her title role in *Murphy Brown*.

MOST EMMYS BY AN ACTOR
Don Knotts won the Best Actor Emmy five times, for his part as Barney Fife in *The Andy Griffith Show*.

MOST BRIT AWARDS
Annie Lennox, formerly of the Eurythmics, has won seven Brit awards as a solo artist – more than any other artist or act. Her most recent award was Best British Female Artist in 1996.

MOST BRIT AWARDS BY A GROUP IN ONE YEAR
British band Blur hold the record for the most wins in a year, with four in 1995.

MOST CESAR AWARDS
French star Isabelle Adjani is the only person to have won four Césars, awarded by the French Académie des Arts. Her wins were for *Possession* (Fra/W Ger, 1981), *L'Eté Meurtrier* (Fra, 1983), *Camille Claudel* (Fra, 1988) and *La Reine Margot* (Fra/Ger/Ita, 1994).

MOST INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS
Satyajit Ray, nicknamed 'God' in Bombay film circles, was India's most celebrated movie director. He received a total of 34 international film awards in the course of his career, including an Oscar for Lifetime Achievement. Ray died in 1992.

MOST BOOKER PRIZE WINS
South African author JM Coetzee is the only person to have won the Booker Prize for Fiction twice. His wins were in 1983 for *The Life And Times Of Michael K* and in 1999 for *Disgrace*.

MOST PULITZER PRIZES
The Associated Press, founded in 1848, has received 45 Pulitzer Prizes – more than any other news organization.

↓ MOST EMMYS BY A SERIES IN ONE SEASON
Both *Hill Street Blues* and *ER* won a record eight Emmys in their first seasons, which were in 1981 and 1995 respectively. *ER's* wins included a Best Supporting Actress (Drama) award for Julianna Margulies (below), for her role as nurse Carole Hathaway.

⊙ MOST GRAMMYS IN ONE YEAR
The record for the the most Grammy awards in a single year is shared by Michael Jackson, who won eight in 1984, and Carlos Santana (left), who won eight in 2000. Santana's awards were for Album Of The Year (*Supernatural*), Record Of The Year ('Smooth'), Best Pop Performance By A Duo Or Group With Vocals ('Maria, Maria'), Best Pop Collaboration With Vocals ('Smooth'), Best Pop Instrumental Performance ('El Farol'), Best Rock Performance By A Duo Or Group With Vocals ('Put Your Lights On'), Best Rock Instrumental Performance ('The Calling') and Best Rock Album (*Supernatural*).

Body Beautiful

MOST PIERCED MAN
The most pierced man is Luis Antonio Aguero of Havana, Cuba, who has a total of 230 piercings on his body and head, including a record 175 on his face. He charges a nominal fee for photographs in order to help support his extended family.

MOST TATTOOED MAN
Tom Leppard, a retired soldier who lives on the Isle of Skye, Highlands & Islands, UK, has had 99.9% of his body tattooed with a leopard-skin design. The only parts of his body that remain free of tattoos are the insides of his ears and the skin between his toes.

MOST TATTOOED WOMEN
Strip artiste Krystyne Kolorful from Alberta, Canada, has had 95% of her body tattooed.

Julia Gnuse of southern California, USA, began tattooing her body in 1991 to hide the effects of the skin disease porphyria. She hopes to achieve 100% coverage in the near future.

MOST VALUABLE LEGS
In 1952 US actress Cyd Charisse had a $5-million (£1.8-million) insurance policy accepted on her legs. The previous record holder was Betty Grable, who became known as 'The Girl with the Million Dollar Legs' when she insured her legs for $1,250,000 (£250,000) in 1937.

RICHEST SUPERMODEL
Although she no longer appears regularly on the catwalk, Elle MacPherson, also known as 'The Body', is said to be worth $36.8 million (£23 million).

HIGHEST-PAID SUPERMODEL
According to *Forbes* magazine, Claudia Schiffer earned $9 million (£5.5 million) in 1999.

⊙ LONGEST CATWALK CAREERS
Carmen Dell'Orefici was born in 1931 and has been modelling for the Ford Agency since the 1940s. At the age of 69 she is still in demand for contracts and international shows. Daphne Self, who featured in the 1999 Laura Ashley campaign, is 71 years old but has had an on/off modelling career.

⊙ LONGEST-RUNNING BEAUTY PAGEANT
The Miss World Pageant has been held annually since 1951. It is also the world's largest global beauty pageant, with a record 94 entrants in 1999.

MOST MR OLYMPIA CONTESTANTS
In 1989 a record 26 contestants vied for the title of Mr Olympia at Rimini, Italy. The winner was Lee Haney (USA), who equalled Arnold Schwarzenegger's then record of six consecutive titles.

FEWEST MR OLYMPIA CONTESTANTS
In 1968 Sergio 'The Myth' Oliva (USA) defended his Mr Olympia title unopposed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York City, USA. Arnold Schwarzenegger (Austria) was also unopposed when he competed in 1971 in Paris, France.

TALLEST MR OLYMPIA CONTESTANT
The tallest Mr Olympia contestant was Lou Ferrigno (USA), who took part in the 1974 competition. He stands 1.95 m (6 ft 5 in) tall. Ferrigno later played the title role in the TV series *The Incredible Hulk*.

SHORTEST MR OLYMPIA CONTESTANT
Flavio Baccanini from San Francisco, California, USA, was the shortest person to vie for the Mr Olympia title. Baccanini, who competed in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, in 1993, is 1.47 m (4 ft 10 in) tall. He weighed 72.58 kg (11 st 6 lb) at the time of the contest.

LONGEST TIME BETWEEN MR OLYMPIA WINS
Arnold Schwarzenegger won the Mr Olympia title for the sixth time in 1975 and announced his retirement immediately afterwards. In 1980 he came out of retirement to win again, in Australia.

MOST MR OLYMPIA TITLES
Lee Haney of South Carolina, USA, won the Mr Olympia contest eight times between 1984 and 1991.

⊙ HEAVIEST MR OLYMPIA CHAMPION
Dorian Yates (UK) weighed a record 116.57 kg (18 st 5 lb) when he was crowned Mr Olympia for the second year in succession at Atlanta, Georgia, USA, in 1993.

BIGGEST MS OLYMPIA CONTEST
In 1990 30 women competed in the Ms Olympia contest.

OLDEST MS OLYMPIA CONTESTANT
Christa Bauch (Germany) was 47 years old when she participated in the 1994 Ms Olympia competition.

YOUNGEST MS OLYMPIA CONTESTANT
Lorie Johnson (USA) was 17 years old when she took part in the first Ms Olympia competition in 1985.

LIGHTEST MS OLYMPIA CONTESTANT
Erika Mes (Netherlands) weighed 45.36 kg (7 st 2 lb) when she competed in 1984.

SHORTEST MS OLYMPIA CONTESTANT
Michele Ralabate (USA), who competed in 1995, is 1.5 m (4 ft 11 in) tall.

HEAVIEST MS OLYMPIA CONTESTANT
Nicole Bass (USA) weighed 92.53 kg (14 st 8 lb) when she participated in the 1997 contest. She was also the tallest ever contestant, at 1.88 m (6 ft 2 in).

MOST FILMS MADE BY A MR OLYMPIA
Arnold Schwarzenegger has appeared in a total of 29 feature films, including *The Terminator* (USA, 1984), *Total Recall* (USA, 1990), *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* (USA, 1991), *True Lies* (USA, 1994) *Batman And Robin* (USA, 1997) and *End Of Days* (USA, 1999).

MOST MISS WORLD WINNERS FROM ONE COUNTRY
Both Miss UK and Miss Venezuela have won the Miss World Pageant a record five times. However, the UK's 1974 winner, Helen Morgan, was forced to resign her title because of the pressures of motherhood.

↓ MOST BODY PIERCINGS
Elaine Davidson of Edinburgh, UK, has acquired a record 462 body piercings since Jan 1997, 192 of which are on her head.

Stunts & Special Effects

MOST 'BLOWN-UP' PERSON
US entertainer Allison Bly, better known as 'The Dynamite Lady', has blown herself up more than 1,000 times inside a box she calls the 'Coffin of Death', using explosives with a force equivalent to two sticks of dynamite.

LONGEST FULL-BODY BURN WITHOUT OXYGEN
Stig Günther (Denmark) endured a full-body burn without oxygen supplies for a record 2 min 6 sec in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 13 March 1999.

LONGEST WALL OF DEATH RIDE
The longest wall of death ride on record lasted 7 hr 13 sec. It was made by Martin Blume (Germany), who rode a Yamaha XS 400 more than 12,000 laps on a wall with a diameter of 10 m (32.8 ft) at Berlin, Germany, on 16 April 1983. His average speed over the 292 km (181.4 miles) covered was 45 km/h (28 mph).

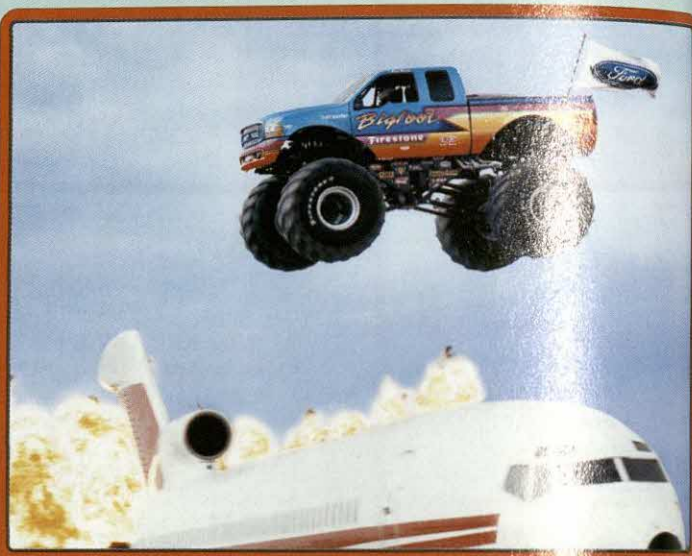
OLDEST WALL OF DEATH RIDER
Jerry De Roye (UK), who was born in 1927, is the oldest wall of death rider still performing regularly. He rides a 1927 V-Twin Indian Type 101 'Scout' motorbike.

LONGEST RAMP JUMP IN A CAR
The longest ramp jump made in a car, with the car landing on its wheels and driving on afterwards, is 72.24 m (237 ft), by Ray Baumann (Australia) at Ravenswood International Raceway, Perth, Western Australia, on 23 Aug 1998.

LONGEST BACKWARDS MOTORCYCLE JUMP
Roger 'Mr Backward' Riddell (USA) jumped over seven cars – a distance of 18.29 m (60 ft) – riding backwards on a 650 cc Honda motorbike in Franklin, Indiana, USA, in May 1987.

HIGHEST ROOF-TO-ROOF MOTORCYCLE JUMP
On 30 July 1998 Super Joe Reed (USA) leaped from the roof of one 42-m-high (140-ft) building to another on a 250 cc dirtbike in Los Angeles, California, USA. The gap between the buildings was 19.8 m (65 ft).

LONGEST AND HIGHEST BLINDFOLD SKYWALK
On 11 Nov 1998 Jay Cochrane of Atlantic City, New Jersey, USA, made a blindfold tightrope walk of 182.9 m (600 ft) between the two 91-m-high (300-ft) towers of the Flamingo Hilton, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.



⊙ LONGEST RAMP JUMP IN A MONSTER TRUCK
On 11 Sept 1999 Dan Runte (USA) jumped 61.6 m (202 ft) over a Boeing 727 passenger jet in the monster truck *Bigfoot*. The record was set at Smyrna Airport, Tennessee, USA.

HIGHEST DIVE INTO AN AIRBAG
Stig Günther (Denmark) jumped from a record height of 104.5 m (343 ft) into a 12 x 15 x 4.5-m (39.4 x 49.2 x 14.8-ft) airbag on 7 Aug 1998.

LONGEST LEAP IN A CAR BY A STUNTMAN
The longest leap made in a car that was being propelled by its own engine was performed by stunt driver Gary Davis for the film *Smokey and the Bandit II*

⊙ MOST STILL CAMERAS USED IN A FILM SEQUENCE
When shooting the 'Bullet time' sequence of *The Matrix* (USA, 1999), directors Larry and Andy Wachowski used a total of 120 specially modified still cameras to achieve a panning shot of protagonist Neo (Keanu Reeves) as he dodges bullets fired by a pursuer.

(USA, 1981). Davis raced a stripped-down Plymouth at a speed of 128 km/h (80 mph) up a ramp that was wedged against the back of a double-tiered car-carrier. He flew 49.7 m (163 ft) through the air before landing safely on the desert floor.

HIGHEST FREEFALL BY A STUNTMAN
For the film *Highpoint* (Canada, 1979), stuntman Dave Robinson made a freefall from the record height of 335 m (1,100 ft), jumping from a ledge at the summit of the CN Tower, Toronto, Canada. The freefall lasted for six seconds before his parachute opened just 91.4 m (300 ft) from the ground. Robinson was paid $150,000 (£70,690) for the feat – a record for a single stunt.

HIGHEST JUMP WITHOUT A PARACHUTE BY A STUNTMAN
The highest ever jump made by a movie stuntman without a parachute is 70.7 m (232 ft), by AJ Bakunus while he was doubling for Burt Reynolds in *Hooper* (USA, 1978). He fell onto an air mattress.

MOST EXPENSIVE AERIAL STUNT
Simon Crane (UK) performed one of the most dangerous aerial stunts ever when he moved between two jets at an altitude of 4.752 km (2.95 miles) for *Cliffhanger* (USA, 1993). The stunt, performed only once because it was so risky, cost a record $1 million (£568,000).

HIGHEST STUNTMAN: ACTOR RATIO
The Rookie (USA, 1990), directed by and starring Clint Eastwood, featured a total of 87 stuntmen and just 37 actors.

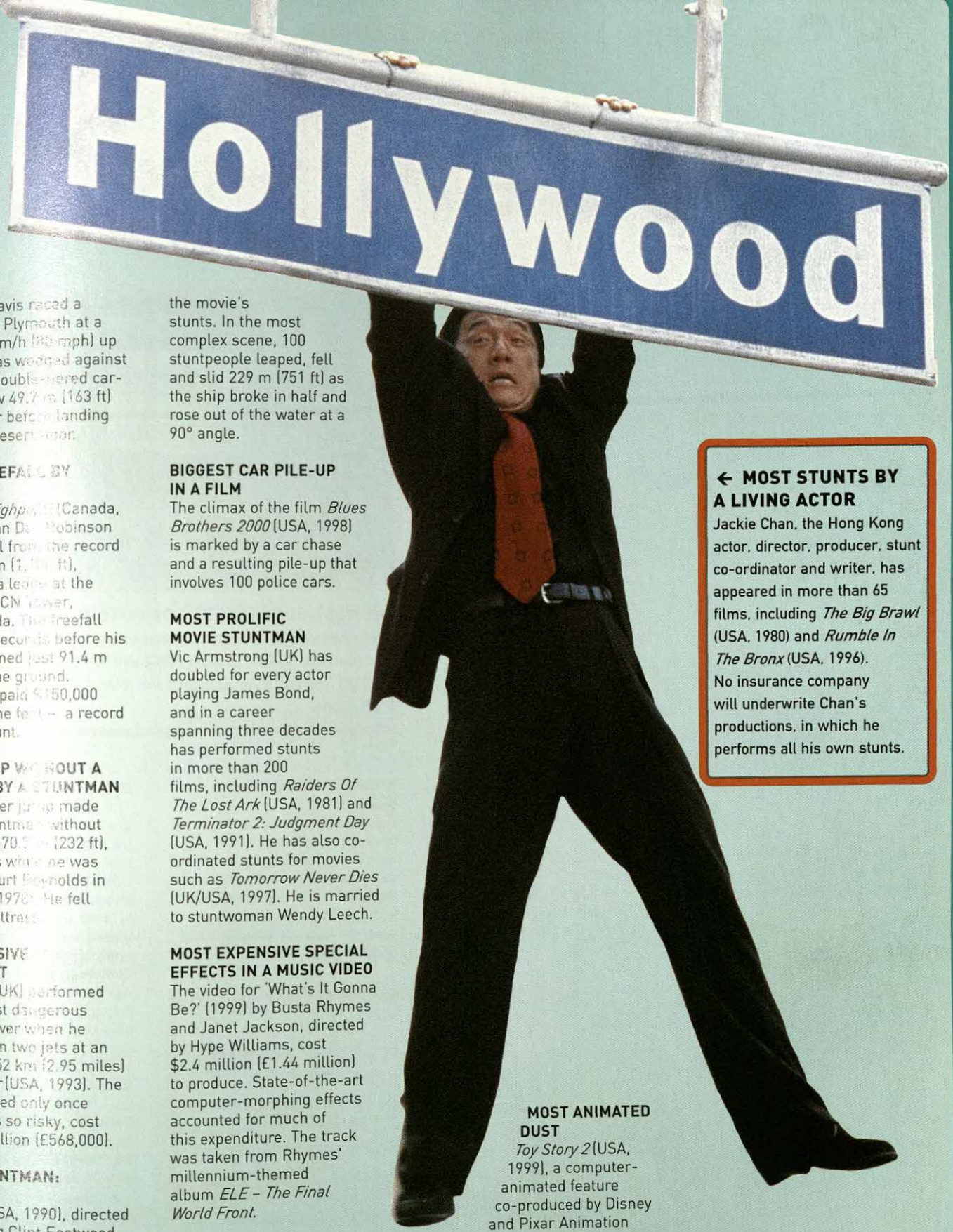
BIGGEST FILM STUNT BUDGET
More than $3 million (£1.87 million) of the $200-million (£125-million) budget for *Titanic* (USA, 1997) went towards the movie's stunts. In the most complex scene, 100 stuntpeople leaped, fell and slid 229 m (751 ft) as the ship broke in half and rose out of the water at a 90° angle.

BIGGEST CAR PILE-UP IN A FILM
The climax of the film *Blues Brothers 2000* (USA, 1998) is marked by a car chase and a resulting pile-up that involves 100 police cars.

MOST PROLIFIC MOVIE STUNTMAN
Vic Armstrong (UK) has doubled for every actor playing James Bond, and in a career spanning three decades has performed stunts in more than 200 films, including *Raiders Of The Lost Ark* (USA, 1981) and *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* (USA, 1991). He has also co-ordinated stunts for movies such as *Tomorrow Never Dies* (UK/USA, 1997). He is married to stuntwoman Wendy Leech.

MOST EXPENSIVE SPECIAL EFFECTS IN A MUSIC VIDEO
The video for 'What's It Gonna Be?' (1999) by Busta Rhymes and Janet Jackson, directed by Hype Williams, cost $2.4 million (£1.44 million) to produce. State-of-the-art computer-morphing effects accounted for much of this expenditure. The track was taken from Rhymes' millennium-themed album *ELE – The Final World Front*.

MOST COMPUTER-GENERATED EFFECTS IN A MOVIE
The film *Pleasantville* (USA, 1998) contained 1,700 digital visual effect shots, compared with an average of 50 for most Hollywood movies.



← MOST STUNTS BY A LIVING ACTOR
Jackie Chan, the Hong Kong actor, director, producer, stunt co-ordinator and writer, has appeared in more than 65 films, including *The Big Brawl* (USA, 1980) and *Rumble In The Bronx* (USA, 1996). No insurance company will underwrite Chan's productions, in which he performs all his own stunts.

MOST ANIMATED DUST
Toy Story 2 (USA, 1999), a computer-animated feature co-produced by Disney and Pixar Animation Studios, included a scene directed by John Lasseter in which 2 million tiny three-dimensional particles, each with an individual algorithm to define its movement, acted as 'dust' – traditionally one of the most difficult substances to animate.

Computers

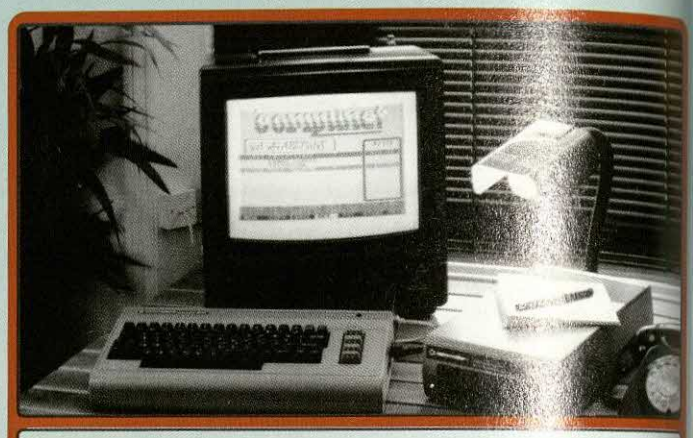
FASTEST COMPUTERS
The fastest general-purpose vector-parallel computer is the Cray Y-MP C90 supercomputer, which has 2 gigabytes (2 billion bytes) of central memory and 16 CPUs (central processing units). This gives it a combined peak performance of 16 gigaflops (16 billion floating point operations, ie computer calculations, per second).

Intel installed an even faster supercomputer at Sandia, Texas, USA, in 1996. Using 9,072 Intel Pentium Pro processors, each running at about 200 MHz, and 608 gigabytes of memory, it will eventually perform at around 1.8 teraflops (1.8 trillion floating point operations per second).

Several suppliers now market massively parallel computers which, with enough processors, can have a theoretical aggregate performance exceeding that of the C-90. However, performances on real-life applications can often be less impressive, as it can be harder to harness effectively the power of a large number of small processors than that of a small number of large ones.

The world supercomputing speed record was set in Dec 1994 by a team of scientists from Sandia National Laboratories and Intel Corporation, who linked together two of the largest Intel Paragon parallel-processing machines. The massively parallel supercomputer achieved a performance of 281 gigaflops on the Linpack benchmark. It also achieved 328 gigaflops when running a program used for radar signature calculations. The supercomputer made use of a total of 6,768 processors working in parallel.

MOST POWERFUL COMPUTER IN SPACE
The Mars Pathfinder is controlled by an IBM RAD6000, a radiation-hardened single board computer related to the standard PowerPC. It has a 32-bit architecture and is able to carry out 22 million instructions per second. Used to store flight software, engineering and silence data and images, as well as data from the rover vehicle, it has 128 million bytes of memory. Pathfinder landed on Mars in July 1997.



⊙ MOST SUCCESSFUL COMPUTER
Approximately 30 million Commodore 64 computers were sold between the model's launch in 1982 and its commercial decline in 1993. The computer contained 64K RAM, 16K graphics and 16K sound.

YOUNGEST SOFTWARE DEVELOPER
Roy Narunsky (Israel), who developed Curtains 95, a commercial software program designed to help children operate the Windows 95 environment, was just 13 years old when the program was published by Makh-Shevet ML in 1998.

BIGGEST SCANNER
The SLC972C colour scanner, produced by Widacom Group Inc, Brampton, Ontario, Canada, has a 1.82-m (6-ft) scan width. Unveiled at a Californian trade show in May 1999, it is targeted at people who work in industries such as automotive and aircraft manufacturing and shipbuilding, who regularly deal with huge drawings that require a scanning capacity of this size. The SLC972C first appeared on the market in Sept 1999, and sells for $17,184 (£10,659).

⊙ BIGGEST COMPUTER HARD DRIVE
The IBM Deskstar 75GXP, which was unveiled on 15 March 2000, has 75 gigabytes of space, or more than 10 times the capacity of the hard drive found in the average PC. Operating at 7,200 rpm, it can store the same amount of data as 18 DVDs, 159 music CDs or a stack of documents 3.3 km (2 miles) high.

SMALLEST KEYBOARD
The smallest computer keyboard with a full complement of alphanumeric, symbol and command keys was patented on 18 March 1997 by David Levy, an ergonomics graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. The keyboard has 64 keys, each big enough to be operated with a large thumb, yet the whole device measures just 7.62 cm x 3 cm (3 in x 1.2 in), or 60% of the size of a credit card.

⊙ GREATEST STORAGE CAPACITY

US firm C3D Inc has developed and tested a fully-operational read-only disc with a storage capacity of 140 gigabytes. C3D, which first exhibited the disc in Oct 1999, is currently looking for backers for its product. By comparison, a DVD can store up to 17 GB, and a CD-ROM a mere 650 MB.

SMALLEST PERSONAL DATA ASSISTANT (PDA)

The REX PC Companion, built in 1998 by Franklin Electronic Publishers of Burlington, New Jersey, USA, measures just 8.5 cm x 5.4 cm x 0.6 cm (3.37 in x 2.12 in x 0.25 in), weighing 39.6 g (1.4 oz).

FASTEST-SPREADING WORM

The Visual Basic Script Worm 'I Love You' was first detected in Hong Kong, China, on 1 May 2000. The worm (as opposed to a virus, which requires e-mail to transmit itself) passes through Microsoft Outlook and propagates at a speed four times greater than that of the Melissa virus. By 5 May, the worm had mutated into three different generations and had caused an estimated $1.54-billion (£1-billion) worth of damage worldwide. On 8 May Trend Micro Inc published figures showing that it had infected a total of 3.1 million computers worldwide: 2.5 million in North America, 325,000 in Europe, 129,000 in Asia and 25,500 in Australia and New Zealand. On the same day, Philippine National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) officers arrested a man in the country's capital, Manila, in connection with the worm.

BIGGEST NUMBER CRUNCHED

In April 1997 it was announced that computer scientists at Purdue University, Indiana, USA, had co-ordinated researchers around the world to find the two largest numbers that, multiplied together, equal a known 167-digit number, $(3^{369}-1) \div 2$. The breakthrough came after 100,000 hours. The two factors had 80 digits and 87 digits. The previous factorization record was 162 digits.

BEST CHESS COMPUTER

In 1995 IBM's *Deep Blue* supercomputer became the first computer to beat a human chess grandmaster in a regulation game when it won against Gary Kasparov in Philadelphia, USA. The computer subsequently beat Kasparov in a six-match series on 11 May 1997.

→ YOUNGEST IT EXAM PASS

Krishan Radia (b 26 Oct 1991) of London, UK, was 6 years 8 months old when he obtained a grade C in his GCSE Information Technology examination in June 1998, making him the youngest person to gain an IT qualification.

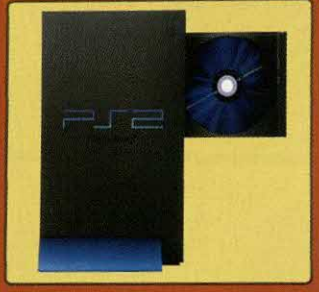
'MOST HUMAN' COMPUTER PROGRAM

A computer running the program Albert was awarded the 1999 Loebner Prize for the 'most human' computer system, winning $2,000 (£1,250) for its author, Robby Garner from Georgia, USA. Albert is a program that a user can communicate with using human speech.

GREATEST MEMORY DENSITY

On 23 March 2000 researchers at Seagate Technologies, Scotts Valley, California, USA, announced that they had developed a data storage disc capacity equivalent to 6.975 GB/cm² (45 GB/in²). This would be like an 8.8-cm (3.5-in) floppy holding 25 DVD-quality movies.

Computer Games



⊙ FASTEST-SELLING CONSOLE
A total of 980,000 units of the Sony PlayStation2 (PS2) were sold in the 48 hours following its release.

BEST-SELLING COMPUTER GAMES
The Nintendo game *Super Mario Brothers* had sold a total of 40.23 million copies worldwide by April 2000.

The 26 games featuring Mario, the plumber who first appeared in the arcade game *Donkey Kong* in 1982, have sold more than 152 million copies in total.

MOST ADVANCED GAMES CONSOLE
The Sony PlayStation2, launched in Japan on 4 March 2000, is powered by a 128-bit RISC chip known as the 'Emotion Engine' that runs at 294.912 MHz and is capable of generating polygons at a rate of 66 million a second. The unit supports DVD video and audio CD formats, and has a memory capacity of 32 MB. The PS2, the second 128-bit console to be released (after the Sega Dreamcast), is expected to dominate the highly competitive games console market for some time to come. Other 128-bit machines, developed by Nintendo and Microsoft, are expected to be released in late 2000 or early 2001.

FASTEST-SELLING PC GAME
Myst, which was developed by Cyan and released by Broderbrund in 1993, sold 500,000 copies in its first year. Sales of the game have now topped 4 million, and it has made a total worldwide profit of over $100 million (£60 million).

MOST EXPENSIVE COMPUTER GAME DEVELOPMENT
The Dreamcast FREE (Full Reactive Eyes Entertainment) title *Shenmue* cost over $20 million (£12 million) to develop. The project took seven years, and was the brainchild of Yu Suzuki, the head of Sega's game-development AM2 division.

MOST ONLINE CONSOLE SALES
Of the 980,000 consoles sold in the first 48 hours after the launch of the PS2 on 4 March 2000, 380,000 were sold online.

MOST SUCCESSFUL GAMES PUBLISHER
In the year ending March 1999, Electronic Arts of California, USA, reported sales of $1.22 billion (£736 million) and profits of $[illegible] million (£44 million).

BIGGEST GLOBAL GAMING MARKET SHARE
As of March 2000, Sony Computer Entertainment's two consoles, the PlayStation and PlayStation 2, held a 70% share of the world game console market.

BEST-SELLING HAND-HELD GAME SYSTEM
The world's most popular video game system is the Nintendo Game Boy, which sold more than 80 million units between 1989 and 1999. With its variant units – the original Game Boy, Game Boy Pocket and Game Boy Colour – Nintendo currently

⊙ BEST-SELLING DRIVING SIMULATOR
Gran Turismo Real Driving Simulator, a Sony PlayStation game, had sold 7 million units worldwide by Feb 2000. The game was developed by Polyphony Digital, a satellite company of Sony Computer Entertainment. A sequel, *Gran Turismo 2*, was launched in 1999, and *Gran Turismo 2000* is one of the headline titles showcasing the 'Emotion Engine' processor of the PS2.

⊙ OLDEST GIGA PET
The world's oldest known Giga Pet is Elvis, owned by Jessica Troiano of New Milford, Connecticut, USA. According to its manufacturer, Tiger Electronics, Elvis' life began on 3 July 1997. It claimed the record on 13 Jan 1998, at the age of 194 days.

MOST ADVANCE ORDERS FOR A GAME
More than 325,000 US consumers put down deposits for copies of *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time*, a Nintendo 64 game, to ensure that they received their copy as soon as it went on sale on 23 Nov 1998.

MOST RIGOROUS SOFTWARE REGULATIONS
Germany has regulations stipulating that blood shown on computer games be green, and that victims likely to end up getting killed are portrayed as zombies, or as far from human as possible.

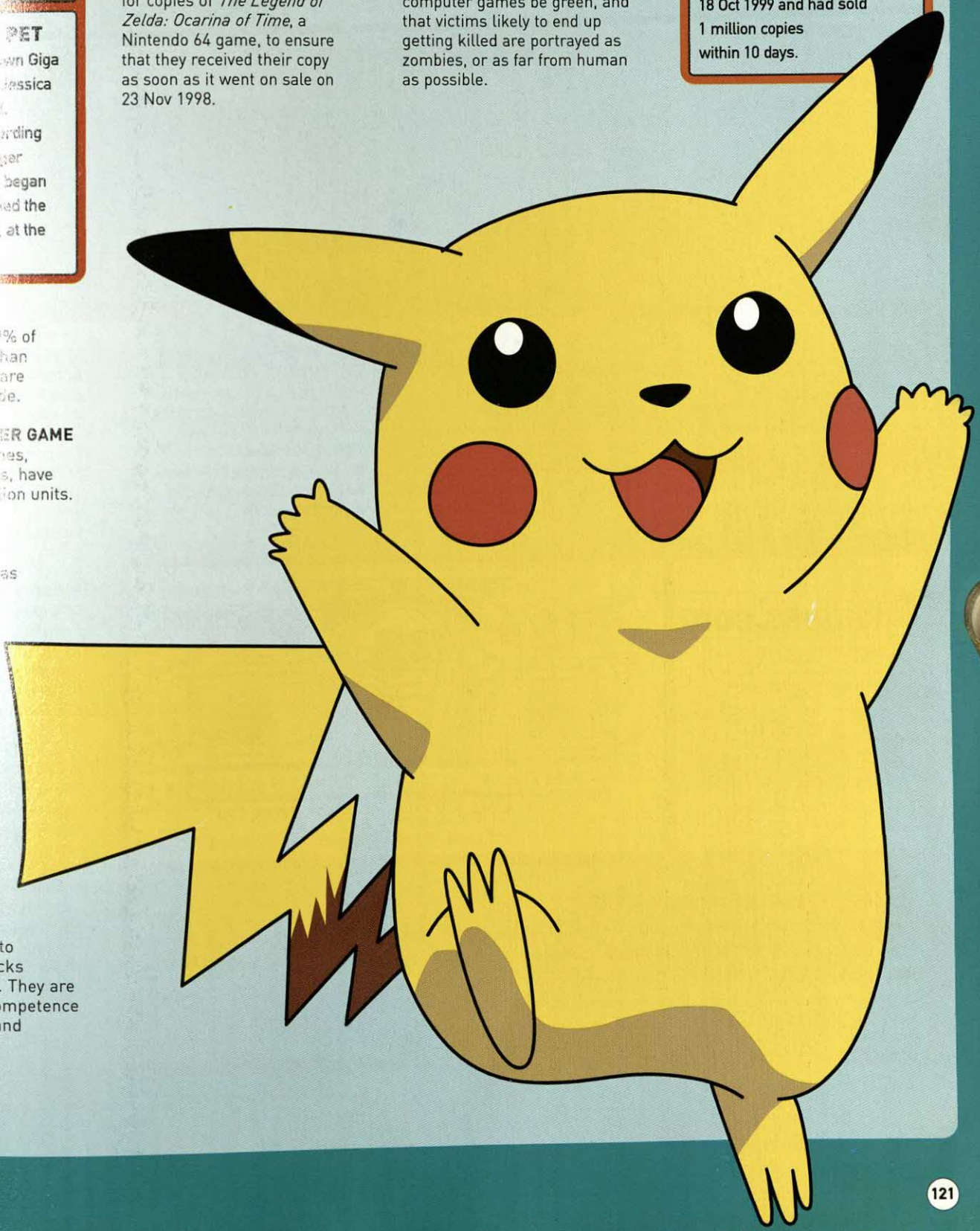
↓ FASTEST-SELLING COMPUTER GAME
The Nintendo Game Boy title *Pokémon Yellow* was released in the USA on 18 Oct 1999 and had sold 1 million copies within 10 days.

occupies more than 90% of the US market. More than 1,000 Game Boy titles are now available worldwide.

BEST-SELLING SOCCER GAME
The *FIFA* series of games, developed by EA Sports, have sold more than 16 million units.

BEST-SELLING FLIGHT SIMULATOR
MS Flight Simulator was released by Microsoft in April 1992 and had sold a total of 21 million units by June 1999.

MOST POPULAR DJ-SIMULATION ARCADE GAME
By May 1999, Japanese company Konami had released 6,700 copies of the arcade game *Beatmania* (known as *Hiphopmania* outside Japan), a DJ simulation game in which the player has to handle two record decks and an effects button. They are then rated on their competence at mixing effectively and timing the additional sound effects.



Internet 1

⊙ BIGGEST SINGLE E-COMMERCE TRANSACTION

American internet tycoon Mark Cuban (inset) from Dallas, Texas, USA, bought a Gulfstream V business jet over the internet in Oct 1999. The jet changed hands for $40 million (£25 million).

MOST QUESTIONS TO A WEBSITE

During a web event to promote his album *Flaming Pie*, held on 17 May 1997, former Beatle Sir Paul McCartney received over 3 million questions from fans in 30 minutes.

MOST VISITED WEBSITES

The official website of the 1998 FIFA World Cup, www.france98.com, received a total of 1,137,218,296 hits over the course of the competition, which was held between 10 June and 12 July 1998. The website also holds the records for the most hits in a 24-hour period (73,030,828 on 30 June 1998), the most hits in one hour (10,290,429, also on 30 June 1998) and the most hits in one minute (235,356 on 29 June 1998).

According to web statisticians alexa.com, the most visited website on a day-to-day basis is www.msn.com, Microsoft Corporation's website. In March 2000 it received a total of 10.5 billion page views, 62% of which were accounted for by hotmail.com, Microsoft's free e-mail service provider.

⊙ MOST VALUABLE DOMAIN NAME

On 1 Dec 1999 Texan entrepreneur Marc Ostrofsky sold the internet domain name 'business.com' to US firm eCompanies for $7.5 million (£4.7 million). An internet service provider in London, UK, had sold him the name for £96,560 ($150,000) in 1996. However, GreatDomains.com, an auction house for internet addresses, expects this record to be broken sometime towards the end of 2000, as it claimed in April 2000 to have received a $10-million (£6.3-million) bid for the name 'america.com'.

BIGGEST INTERNET CRASH

At approximately 11:30 am Eastern Standard Time on 25 April 1997 the global computer network ran into major problems and much of the system became unusable. Human error and equipment failure led to a network in Florida, USA, claiming 'ownership' of 30,000 of the internet's 45,000 routes. Data packets were routed incorrectly and connections across the net failed. Although some service providers took action within 15 minutes, the problem persisted until 7 pm.

MOST CONDOLENCES EXPRESSED ON THE NET

In Sept 1997, the month following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, a record 350,000 messages of condolence were left on the

memorial page of the British Monarchy's official website. The site received a total of 14 million visitors that month – a record amount for a royal website.

MOST POPULAR INTERNET SUFFIX
Of the 15.72 million internet suffixes in existence by the end of March 2000, the most popular was '.com', which was used by 9.48 million hosts.

BIGGEST COMPUTER NETWORK
The number of computers connected to the internet has doubled every year since 1987. The global figure is now approaching 300 million, although there may be many more computers hidden behind corporate 'firewalls' designed to exclude electronic visitors, including hackers.

MOST COMMERCE CONDUCTED ON THE NET
US businesses exchanged an estimated $17 billion (£10.26 billion) in goods and services in 1999 – more than any other country.

MOST EXPENSIVE COUNTRY CODE
Tuvalu, a tiny developing island nation located halfway between Hawaii and Australia in the Pacific Ocean, has a population of just 10,588. In April 2000 it announced that it had made a total of $50 million (£31.6 million) by selling its rights to the URL suffix '.tv' to Californian company Idealab for 10 years.

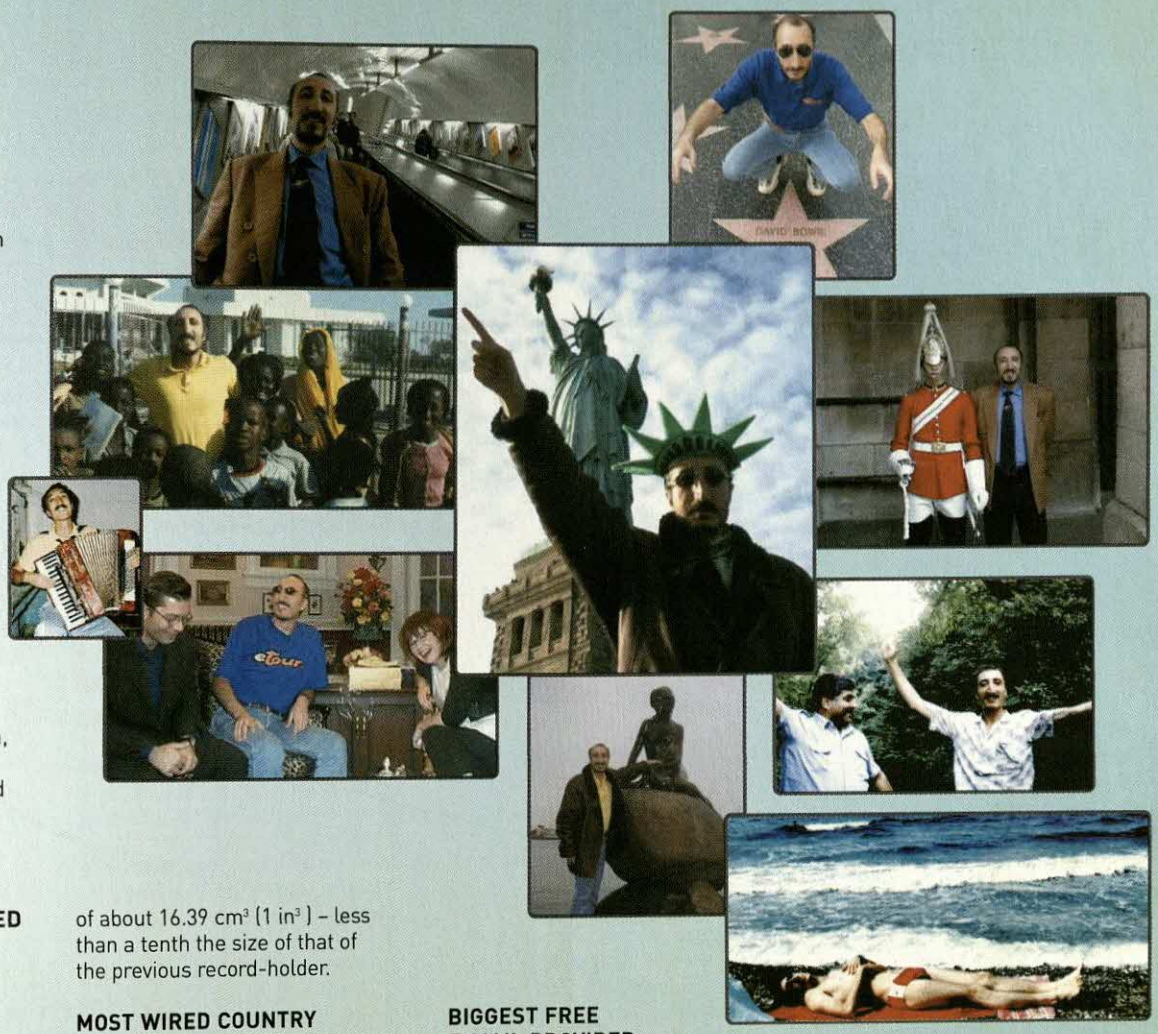
SMALLEST SERVER HARDWARE
The web page of the Wearables Laboratory at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, USA, is supported by Jumptec's DIMM-PC, a 'matchbox' server that measures just 6.86 cm x 4.32 cm x 0.64 cm (2.7 in x 1.7 in x 0.25 in), making it only slightly higher and wider than a box of matches. It has a volume of about 16.39 cm^3 (1 in^3) – less than a tenth the size of that of the previous record-holder.

MOST WIRED COUNTRY
The USA had over 110 million internet users at the end of 1999 – nearly 43% of the worldwide total. Japan is second, with 18.16 million users, and the UK third, with nearly 14 million.

According to the Computer Industry Almanac (www.c-i-a.com), Canada has the most internet users per capita, with 428.3 out of every 1,000 people in the country using the net.

BIGGEST DOMAIN OWNERSHIP
According to NetNames Ltd, the USA owns over 11 million of the 15,719,462 domains that exist worldwide. Germany is second, with 1,483,387, and the UK third, with 1,002,788.

BIGGEST SEARCH ENGINE
The biggest search engine is AltaVista, with 150 million indexed pages.



BIGGEST FREE E-MAIL PROVIDER
Hotmail.com, which was launched in July 1996, is the world's largest free web-based e-mail service provider. As of April 2000, it had more than 60 million subscribers.

YOUNGEST NATION IN CYBERSPACE
Palestine, which is still battling for international recognition as an independent state, acquired autonomy in cyberspace on 22 March 2000, when the Internet Corp for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the regulatory body for net addresses, granted the Palestinian National Authority its own two-letter suffix to advertise real estate online. The authority will now be able to register addresses under its own domain, 'ps', in line with other so-called country codes such as 'fr' for France and 'it' for Italy.

↑ MOST VISITED PERSONAL HOMEPAGE
The personal homepage of photojournalist Mahir Cagri from Izmir, Turkey – members.xoom.com/primall/mahir/ – had received a total of 3,173,973 page views as of 12 April 2000, with a peak of around 50,000 page views per day. Visitors to the site, which is full of kitsch photographs of Cagri playing the accordion and lying on the beach in skimpy red swimming trunks, are welcomed by the message 'I kiss you!'.

Internet 2

⊙ BIGGEST ONLINE GOLF TOURNAMENT

More than 11,000 players took part in the 'internet's first major' – the 1999 Jack Nicklaus Online Golf Championship. The final round of the competition was held on 10 Dec 1999 at the Pelican Hill Golf Club, California, USA, when Chet Stone (USA) won the title 4 & 3 after 36 holes of match play on a digitally-rendered version of the Pelican Hill course. He won $5,000 (£3,081).

BIGGEST INTERNET CONCERT

On 14 Dec 1999 former Beatle Sir Paul McCartney played a one-off gig at the Cavern Club, Liverpool, UK, the site of the Beatles' early performances in the 1960s. In addition to the 300-strong audience, around 3 million fans watched the concert via a live webcast. Another 15,000 gathered in Chavasse Park, Liverpool, where a video screen showed the 13-song gig live. The entire performance lasted just over 40 minutes.

MOST DOWNLOADED WOMAN

Images of actress and model Cindy Margolis (USA) had been downloaded an estimated 53 million times by April 2000.

MOST CYBERSTAR VARIATIONS

There are an estimated 2,000 variations of the Dancing Baby, a cyberstar originally created as an animated 3D graphics model in Oct 1996 by Kinetix, a subsidiary of Autodesk Inc. The Dancing Baby featured heavily in the TV show *Ally McBeal*.

MOST DOWNLOADED CYBERPET

More than 10 million people worldwide have downloaded MOPy, a lifelike pet fish screensaver, since its release on the web in Oct 1997.

BIGGEST SAVING OF PAPER THROUGH INTERNET USE

The delivery firm Federal Express has announced that it saves approximately 2 billion sheets of paper a year in the USA by tracking packages online.

BIGGEST MULTILINGUAL WEB BROADCASTS

The opening and closing ceremonies of the Third Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Kyoto, Japan, in Dec 1997, were broadcast simultaneously via the net in seven languages - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Japanese, Russian and Spanish.

MOST POPULAR INTERNET NEWS SERVICE

The seven sites of the international news service CNN, which is based in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, have a combined average of 55 million page views per week. They also receive more than 3,000 user comments per day via the CNN message boards. The sites currently contain more than 210,000 pages, but grow by 90–150 pages daily.

FIRST CYBERCLINIC

In March 1997 US clinical psychologist Dr Kimberly Young established the Center for On-Line Addiction, the world's first psychiatric cybercentre for internet addicts and those with related mental health problems. The clinic is situated at www.netaddiction.com.

→ FIRST VIRTUAL NEWSREADER
On 19 April 2000 virtual newscaster Ananova delivered her first news broadcast from www.ananova.com. Ananova, a product of PA News Media of Leeds, W Yorks, UK, is a complete 3D model, generated in real time and programmed to act like a human newsreader.

MOST EXPENSIVE VIRTUAL MEMORIALS
While most of the virtual cemeteries on the Internet provide memorials for an average of $50 (£30), Personal Memorials (http://www.cleverstrings.com/partners/memorials/) charges $995 (£628) for a complete multimedia package which includes photographs and video and audio clips.

LONGEST WEB PAGE
Ralf Laue of Leipzig, Germany, created a web page 563.62 km (350.2 miles) long but only 21,698 Kb in size at the Mitsubishi Electric exhibition stand at the CEBIT fair, Hannover, Germany, from 18 to 24 March 1999.

BIGGEST MASS DISMISSAL FOR E-MAIL ABUSE
In Nov 1999 the *New York Times* newspaper dismissed a total of 23 employees who had been sending inappropriate and offensive e-mail messages, including jibes about bosses and explicit photographs. Scores of other workers at the newspaper were warned about misuse of the internet.

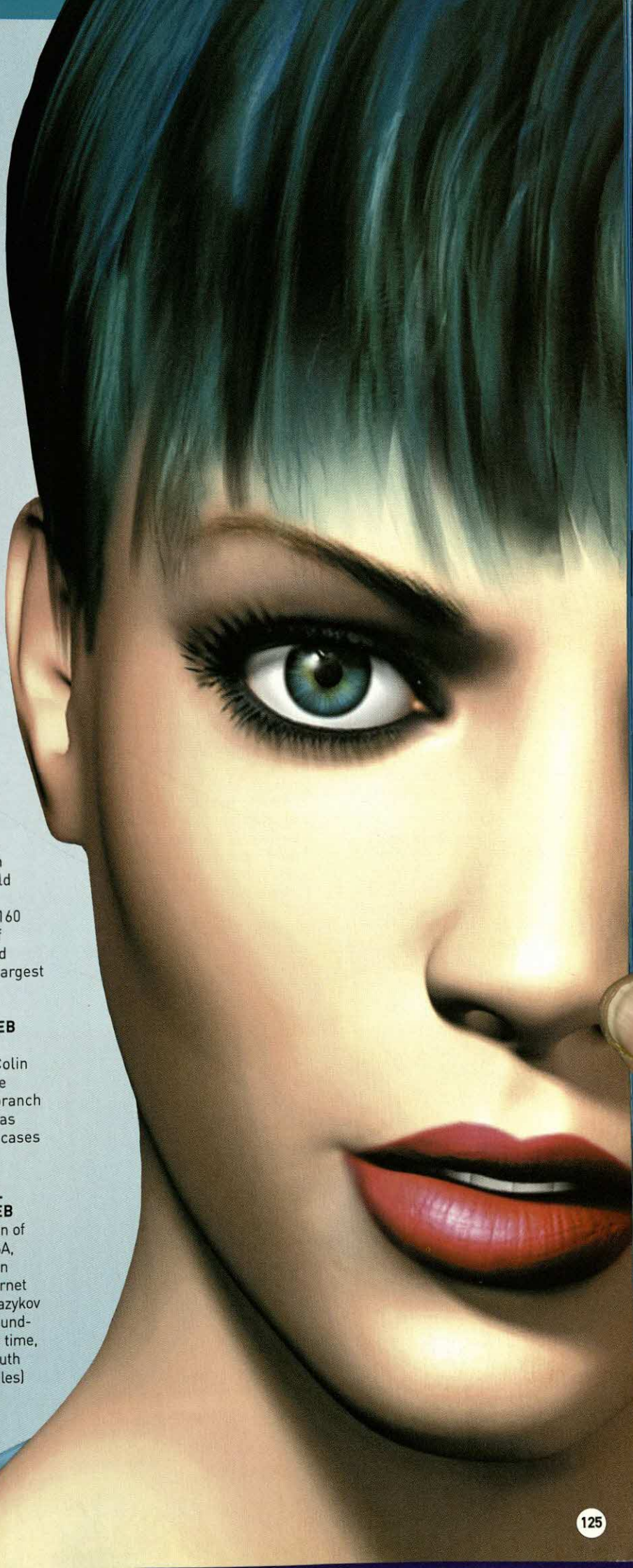
← LONGEST DOMAIN NAME
The longest domain name is http://www.llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwll-llantysiliogogogoch.co.uk. It belongs to a site promoting the village of the same name in Anglesey, Gwynedd, UK. The name means 'St Mary's Church in the hollow of the white hazel near a rapid whirlpool and the Church of St Tysilio near the red cave'.

BIGGEST MP3 SITE
mp3.com is the world's premier online music service provider, hosting 208,000 songs by over 35,000 artists available for download.

BIGGEST ONLINE SHOP
Amazon.com, founded in 1994 by Jeff Bezos (USA), opened its virtual doors in July 1995 and has now sold products to more than 13 million people in over 160 countries. Its catalogue of 4.7 million books, CDs and audiobooks makes it the largest online shop in the world.

BIGGEST VOLUNTARY WEB SAFETY ORGANIZATION
Formed in June 1995 by Colin Gabriel Hatcher (USA), the Cyber Angels (the cyber branch of the Guardian Angels) has dealt with more than 200 cases of cyberstalking.

MOST DISTANT MEDICAL TREATMENT VIA THE WEB
In Nov 1998 Dr Daniel Carlin of Boston, Massachusetts, USA, 'treated' Russian yachtsman Victor Yazykov over the internet for a dangerous abscess. Yazykov was taking part in a solo round-the-world yacht race at the time, and was off the coast of South Africa, 12,400 km (7,705 miles) away from Boston.



Robots

SMALLEST ROBOT
The world's smallest robot is the Monsieur microbot, developed by Seiko Epson Corporation of Japan in 1992. This light-sensitive robot, which measures less than 1 cm^3 (0.06 in^3) and weighs 1.5 g (0.05 oz), is made from 97 separate watch parts. Capable of reaching speeds of up to 11.3 mm/sec (0.4 in/sec) for about five minutes when charged, the Monsieur has earned a design award at the International Contest for Hill-Climbing Micromechanisms.

BIGGEST ROBOT EXHIBITION
The International Robot Show is a biennial event held in Tokyo, Japan. The 1999 show, which took place in October, attracted over 700 exhibitors.

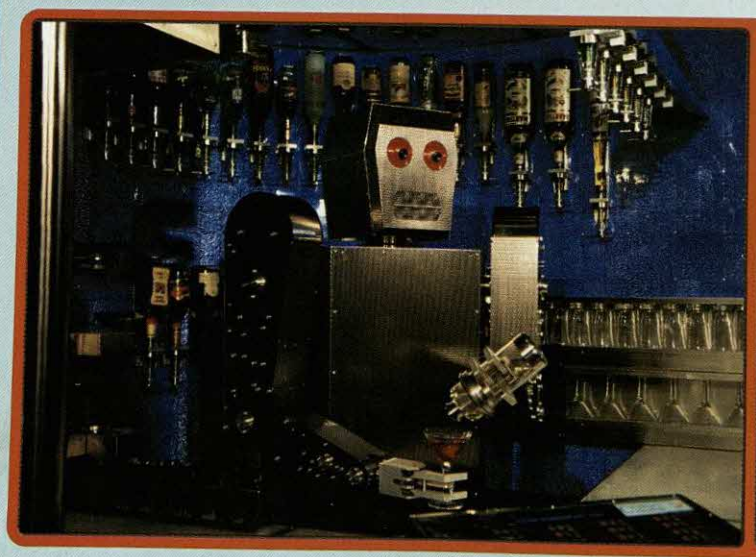
MOST COMPLEX ARTIFICIAL BRAIN
Genobyte Corp of Boulder, Colorado, USA, in conjunction with Advanced Telecommunications Research (ATR) of Japan, have developed a brain for a robot cat called *Robokoneko* (Japanese for 'robot kitten'). The architect of this Cellular Automata Machine (CAM) is Hugo de Garis, who works at ATR's labs in Kyoto, Japan. De Garis' CAM consists of 37.7 million artificial neurons, each neuron being a group of transistors coupled as a cell. By contrast, contemporary AI 'brains' contain only a few hundred neurons. When completed, *Robokoneko* will have the ability to 'learn', creating new neural pathways in the process.

MOST EXPENSIVE ROBOT FISH
As a result of a four-year project costing $1 million (£625,000), Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of Japan have developed a series of robotic fish so lifelike that they can only be distinguished from real fish on extremely close inspection. The first model to be produced was a robot sea bream that weighed 2.5 kg (5.5 lb) and had a length of 50 cm (20 in). However, the company are more interested in making robotic replicas of extinct fish for use in virtual aquariums. It is hoped that future robot fish will be able to look for sources of pollution or make oceanographic maps.

BIGGEST ROBOT
The world's largest robot is Tower Belcon, designed and built by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries in 1998. A concrete-conveying robot that stands 70.5 m (231 ft) tall, with a 76.5-m (250-ft) boom, it can deliver 180 m^3 (6,356 ft^3) of concrete an hour via two 3-m^3 (105-ft^3) buckets. It is owned by Kabuki Corporation of Japan.

⊙ MOST ADVANCED VACUUM CLEANER
The Dyson DC06 vacuum cleaner is controlled by three on-board computers that prevent it from falling down stairs, bumping into children and pets and covering areas that have already been vacuumed. It uses information from its 50 sensors to make 16 decisions every second about where it should clean next.

TOUGHEST ROBOT
Commander Manipulator, a robot developed by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, helps to clean up contamination at Windscale Pile 1 (now Sellafield), Cumbria, UK – the scene of one of the world's worst nuclear accidents in 1957. The robot is largely resistant to radiation, and its hydraulically-powered arm can shift weights of 127 kg (280 lb).



⊙ MOST COCKTAILS MIXED BY A ROBOT
Cynthia's Cyberbar in London, UK, which opened in Oct 1999, is run by two cocktail-making robots named Cynthia and Rastus. Both 2.1 m (7 ft) tall, they each cost £250,000 ($410,000). They are able to mix 75 different cocktails, even choosing the correct glass and executing the final pour.

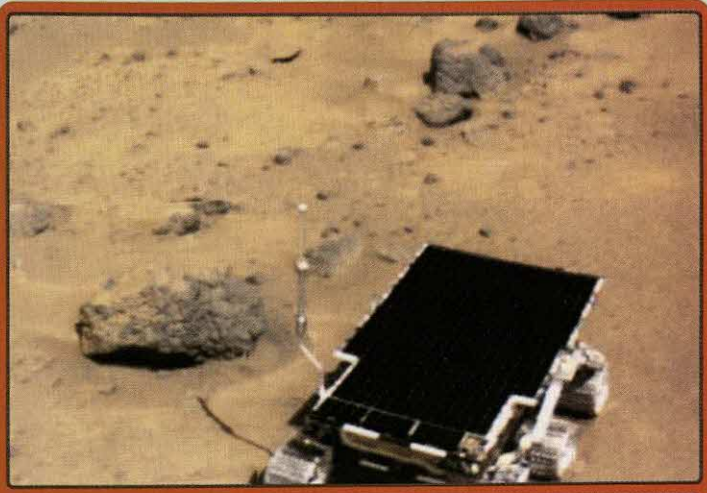
CHEAPEST ROBOT
Walkman, a 12.7-cm-tall (5-in) robot, was built from the remains of a Sony Walkman for $1.75 (£1.12) at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico, USA, in 1996.

MOST WIDELY USED INDUSTRIAL ROBOT
Puma (Programmable Universal Machine for Assembly), designed by Vic Schienman in the 1970s and manufactured by Swiss company Staubli Unimation, is the most commonly used robot on assembly lines and in university laboratories.

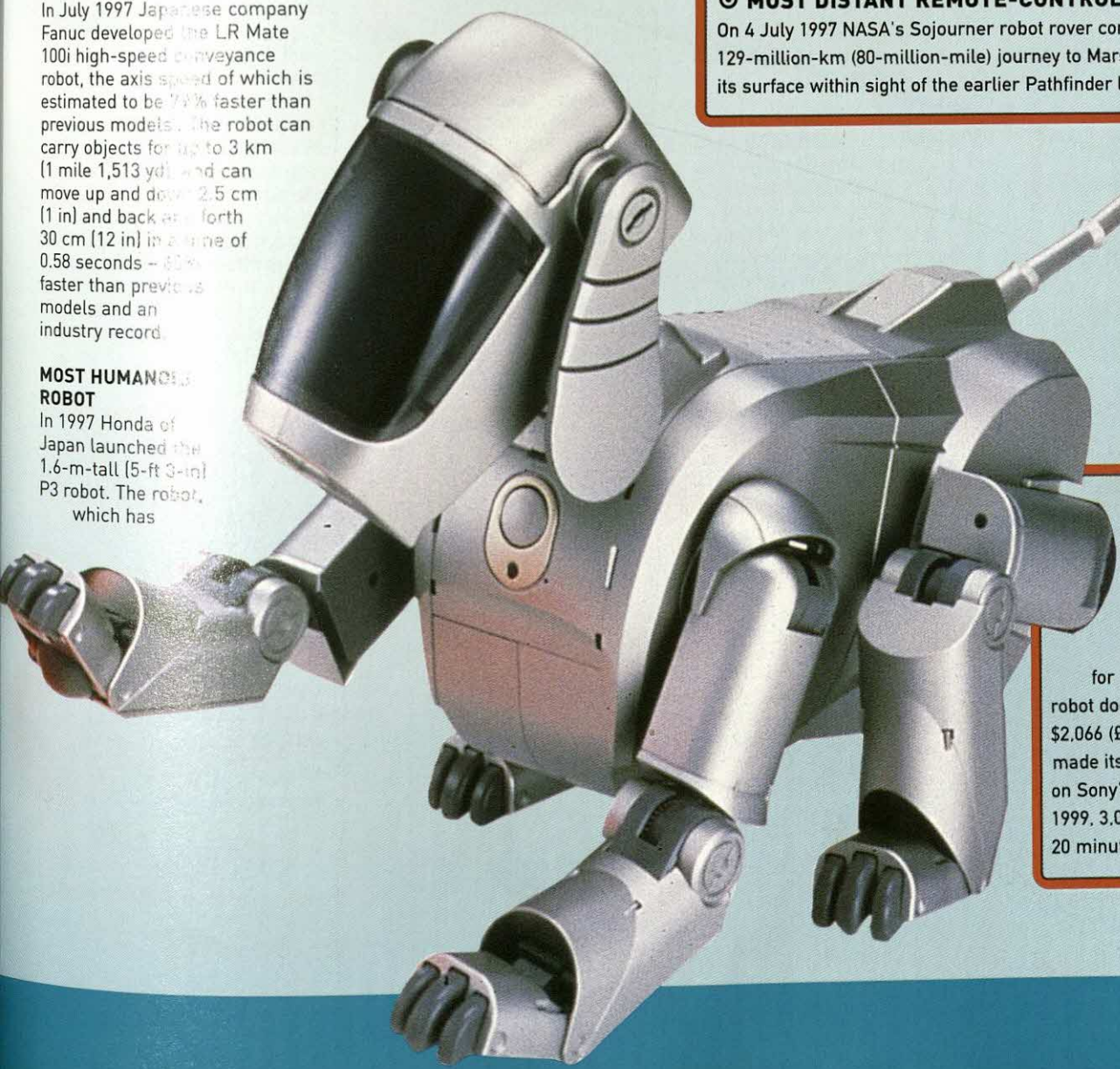
FASTEST INDUSTRIAL ROBOT
In July 1997 Japanese company Fanuc developed the LR Mate 100i high-speed conveyance robot, the axis speed of which is estimated to be 77% faster than previous models. The robot can carry objects for up to 3 km (1 mile 1,513 yd) and can move up and down 2.5 cm (1 in) and back and forth 30 cm (12 in) in a time of 0.58 seconds – 60% faster than previous models and an industry record.

MOST HUMANOID ROBOT
In 1997 Honda of Japan launched the 1.6-m-tall (5-ft 3-in) P3 robot. The robot, which has three-dimensional sight, can turn its head, step over obstacles, change direction and correct its balance if pushed.

MOST INTELLIGENT ROBOT
Based at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, the Cog Project is an attempt to bring together the many different fields of artificial intelligence and robotics. When completed, Cog, the robot currently under construction, will be the ultimate in AI/robotics synergy – an 'intelligent' robot that can think, hear, feel, touch and speak.



⊙ MOST DISTANT REMOTE-CONTROLLED ROBOT
On 4 July 1997 NASA's Sojourner robot rover completed its 129-million-km (80-million-mile) journey to Mars, landing on its surface within sight of the earlier Pathfinder lander.



← FASTEST-SELLING ROBOT PET
The Artificial Intelligence roBOt, or Aibo (Japanese for 'partner'), is Sony's robot dog, which retails for $2,066 (£1,260). When Aibo made its first appearance on Sony's website on 31 May 1999, 3,000 were sold within 20 minutes.

Gadgets 1

← SMALLEST WRISTWATCH PHONE

The smallest wristwatch phone is NTT's prototype Personal Handy-phone System (PHS), which has a volume of 30 cm³ (1.83 in³) and weighs 45 g (1.58 oz). It incorporates voice recognition. Prototypes of wristwatch phones have also been developed by Motorola, Swatch and Samsung Electronics. Samsung's CDMA-based SCH-WP10 watch phone (left), which has a volume of 77 cm³ (4.74 in³), weighs 50 g (1.76 oz) and features a 250-contact phone book, is the only commercially-available wristwatch phone.

FASTEST CAMERA
A camera built for research into high-powered lasers by the Blackett Laboratory at Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, UK, registers images at a rate of 33 billion frames per second.

The fastest production camera is the Imacon 675, made by Hadland Photonics Ltd of Bovingdon, Herts, UK. It operates at up to 600 million frames per second.

SMALLEST MARKETED CAMERA
Excluding intra-cardiac surgery and espionage cameras, the smallest camera is the circular Japanese 'Petal'. With a 2.9-cm (1.1-in) diameter and a 1.65-cm (0.64-in) thickness, it has a focal length of just 12 mm (0.5 in).

SMALLEST FILM CAMERA WITH ZOOM LENS
The world's smallest fully automatic Advanced Photo System (APS) Leaf-Shutter compact camera with 2x zoom lens (composed of two aspherical lens elements) is a Canon model, known as the IXY 320 in Japan, the ELPH 2 in the USA, and the IXUS II elsewhere. It measures 87 mm x 57 mm x 24.5 mm (3.42 in x 2.24 in x 0.96 in) and weighs 170 g (6 oz), excluding the 11-g (0.39-oz) battery. The camera uses hybrid focusing with active and passive autofocusing, and a high-image-quality 2x zoom lens to deliver high-contrast images. It also has advanced APS functions, such as Mid-Roll Change and Print Quality Improvement, as well as print amount specification and three custom functions.

MOST SUCCESSFUL INSTANT CAMERA
A system of one-step photography that uses the principle of diffusion transfer to reproduce the image recorded by a camera lens directly onto a photosensitive surface was developed by Polaroid Corporation founder Edwin Land (USA) in 1947.

⊙ LIGHTEST EYE GLASSES

The Helper Superlight glasses, manufactured by Seika Trading Company Ltd of Osaka, Japan, and first sold in Aug 1998, weigh just 4.583 g (0.16 oz). The glasses are available with lenses of seven different strengths, ranging from +1.00 to 4.00 dioptres.

SMALLEST FAX MACHINE
Real Time Strategies Inc's hand-held device, the Pagentry, which combines various functions including the transmission of messages to facsimile machines, measures just 7.6 cm x 12.7 cm x 1.9 cm (3 in x 5 in x 0.75 in) and weighs only 141.75 g (5 oz).

SMALLEST TELEPHONE
The smallest operational telephone was created by Jan Piotr Krutewicz of Munster, Indiana, USA, on 16 Sept 1996. It measures 47.5 mm x 10 mm x 21 mm (1.87 in x 0.39 in x 0.82 in).

SMALLEST HAND-HELD MOBILE PHONE
The world's smallest mobile phone is the Motorola V3688, which measures just 8.2 cm x 4.3 cm x 2.6 cm (3.2 in x 1.7 in x 1 in). The dual-band phone is based on the clam-shell design of its predecessor, the Motorola StarTAC 8500. Its battery allows for between 140 and 180 minutes of talk time and a standby time of up to 100 hours.

LIGHTEST MOBILE PHONE
The NTT Docomo Mova P208 mobile phone unit weighs 57g (2 oz). It was launched on 1 Oct 1999.

HIGHEST-RESOLUTION DIGITAL CAMERA
The Olympus Camedia C-3030 Zoom digital camera, which costs $1,265 (£800) and was first sold in 1999, has a picture resolution made up of 3.34 megapixels.

FINEST OPTICAL FIBRES
Physicists at the University of Bath, UK, have produced the world's narrowest optical fibres for use in communications. Stretching to 10 km (6 miles 376 yd) in length, with cores that measure only 0.00000001 mm (0.000000002 in) in thickness, their total length-to-width ratio is equivalent to the Channel Tunnel between England and France being extended from the Earth to Jupiter.

⊙ SMALLEST MOBILE PHONE TV
The SCH-M220, Korean-based Samsung Electronics' combination portable TV/mobile phone unit, measures just 9.2 cm x 5.1 cm x 3.6 cm (3.6 in x 2 in x 1.4 in). It provides up to 200 minutes of continuous television viewing time, with 180 and 170 minutes' standby and talk time respectively.

↑ SMALLEST INSTANT CAMERA
The Polaroid PopShot, the world's first disposable instant camera, measures 16.51 cm x 10.79 cm x 6.35 cm (6.5 in x 4.25 in x 2.5 in) and weighs 255.15 g (9 oz). The PopShot can take 10 colour photographs, each measuring 11.2 cm x 6.4 cm (4.5 in x 2.5 in). It comes with a postage-free mailing envelope to encourage users to return it for recycling.

Gadgets 2

← BEST-SELLING ROBOT LAWNMOWER

The Robomow, designed and developed in Israel and marketed by Friendly Robotics of Thame, Oxon, UK, has sold over 300 units since its launch in 1999. With a length of 0.9 m (3 ft) and a retail price of £499 ($809), the machine uses a miniature electronic brain to map out a garden before it starts to mow. It can cut up to 5,000 m² (6,000 yd²) of grass in one go – the equivalent of two tennis courts.

MOST MEDIA FROM ONE COMPONENT

The JVC Victor XV-D9000 DVD player can accommodate four different playback functions: DVD video, DVD audio, video CD and audio CD.

SMALLEST VIDEO CAMERA

The world's smallest video camera measures just 2.54 cm x 5.08 cm x 1.27 cm (1 in x 2 in x 0.5 in). It is fitted with a pinhole lens produced at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, USA.

BIGGEST TV SET

The Sony Jumbo Tron colour TV screen, exhibited in March 1985 at the Tsukuba International Exposition '85, Tokyo, Japan, measured 24.3 m x 45.7 m (80 ft x 150 ft).

The largest cathode ray tubes for colour TV sets are 94-cm (37-in) models manufactured by Mitsubishi Electric of Japan.

SMALLEST CAMCORDERS

The Sony CCD-CR1 Ruvi measures 12.5 cm x 6.7 cm x 4.4 cm (5 in x 2.5 in x 1.75 in) and can store 30 minutes of moving images. The camera has a 6.35-cm (2.5-in) LCD screen and an optical zoom.

Sony's DCR-PC7, launched in 1996, weighs 500 g (17.85 oz) and can fit into the palm of the hand. It has a 6.35-cm (2.5-in) LCD screen, a conventional colour finder, a swivel for its flip-out screen and a DV OUT jack that allows individual digital images to be captured and stored on a PC without any loss of quality.

THINNEST MINI DISC PLAYER

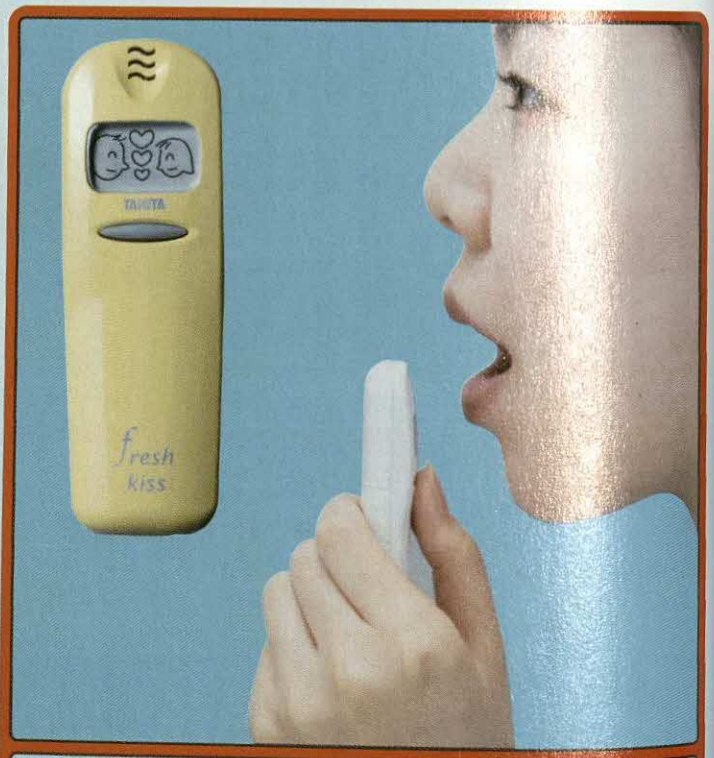
Sony's MZ-R55 is 6 mm (0.25 in) thick and weighs 170 g (6 oz) with its lithium ion battery and alkaline AA cells.

LONGEST-PLAYING MINI DISC PLAYER

The Sharp MD-MT831H Mini Disc player, which retails for $399 (£250), can play continuously for 15 hours, or 26 hours with an additional battery pack. It measures just 80 mm x 18 mm x 80 mm (3.1 in x 0.7 in x 3.1 in).

BEST-SELLING MP3 PLAYER

A total of 400,000 units of the Diamond Rio PMP300 MP3 player were sold between its release in Nov 1998 and May 1999.



⊙ BEST-SELLING HALITOSIS DETECTOR

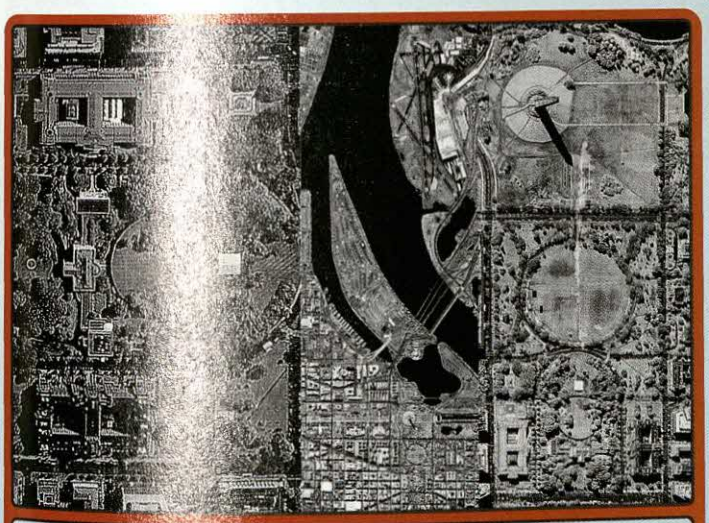
Japanese electronics company Tanita produced the Fresh Kiss HC-201 in July 1999. Retailing at $37 (£23), it sold 800,000 units in its first year on the market. The small, hand-held device analyses the odour of the user's breath, classifying it as anything from 'undetectable' to 'very strong halitosis'.

MOST SOPHISTICATED TOILET
The Washlet Zoë, first sold in May 1997 by Toto of Japan, has a seat and lid that lift automatically and a flush simulator – a sound effect that serves to cover any embarrassing noises. The seat is heated and the toilet can wash and dry the user. The entire unit can be operated by remote control and it automatically freshens the air every time it is used.

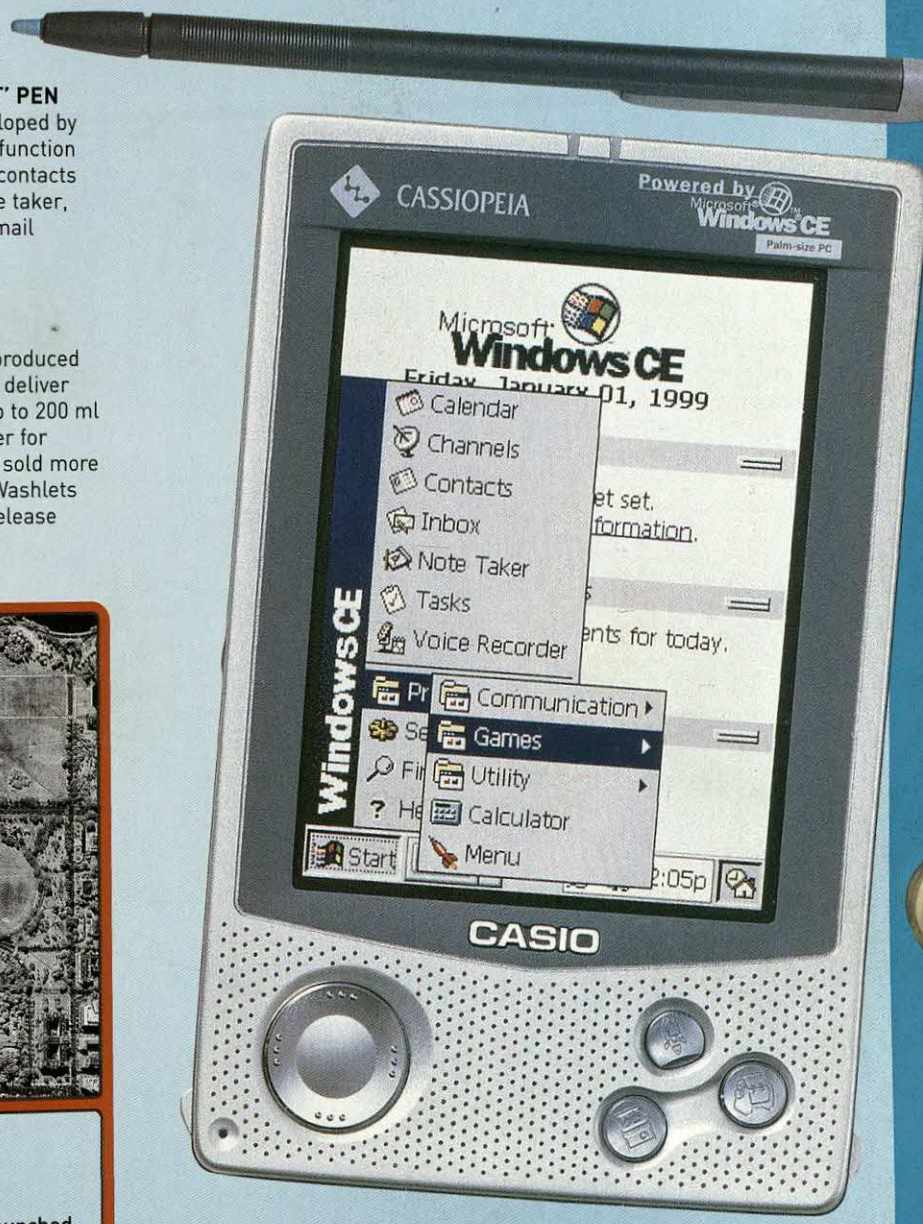
PENKNIFE WITH MOST BLADES
The Year Knife had 1,822 blades when it was first made in 1822 by cutlers Joseph Rodgers and Sons of Sheffield, S. Yorks, UK. A blade was added every year until 1973, when there was no further space left.

MOST 'INTELLIGENT' PEN
The SmartQuill, developed by British Telecom, can function as a diary, calendar, contacts database, alarm, note taker, calculator, pager, e-mail receiver and pen.

BEST-SELLING PORTABLE BIDET
The Travel Washlet, produced by Toto of Japan, can deliver a steady stream of up to 200 ml (7 fl oz) of warm water for 30 seconds. Toto has sold more than 180,000 Travel Washlets since the product's release in 1996.



⊙ MOST ACCURATE COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE SATELLITE PHOTOS
On 24 Sept 1999 Space Imaging of Denver, Colorado, USA, launched a satellite, named *Ikonos*, that was equipped with a Kodak-designed camera. *Ikonos*, which orbits 650 km (400 miles) above the Earth, moves at 7 km/sec (4 miles/sec) and can be used to take photographs of any place in the world, distinguishing objects as small as 1 m² (11 ft²). Customers can purchase images for a minimum of $1,000 (£629) in the USA and $2,000 (£1,258) elsewhere. Sample photographs can be viewed at www.spaceimaging.com.



↑ MOST POWERFUL PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANT
Launched in 1999, the Casio Cassiopeia E-105 has a 131-MHz processor and a back-lit TFT crystal 65,536-colour display. It contains 32 MB of RAM and 16 MB of ROM, and weighs 255 g (9 oz).

Lethal Weapons

FASTEST TANKS
The fastest tracked armoured reconnaissance vehicle is the British Scorpion, which can reach a top speed of 80 km/h (49.7 mph) when carrying a 75% payload.

The British Warrior tank has a top speed of 75 km/h (46.6 mph), which it can achieve with a full payload.

BIGGEST MORTARS
The two biggest mortars ever constructed were Mallet's mortar, built at Woolwich Arsenal, London, UK, in 1857 and Little David, made in the USA during World War II. Each had a calibre of 91.4 cm (36 in), but neither was used in action.

The heaviest mortar to be employed was the tracked German 60-cm (24-in) siege piece known as 'Karl', used during the Battle of Stalingrad in 1942–43.

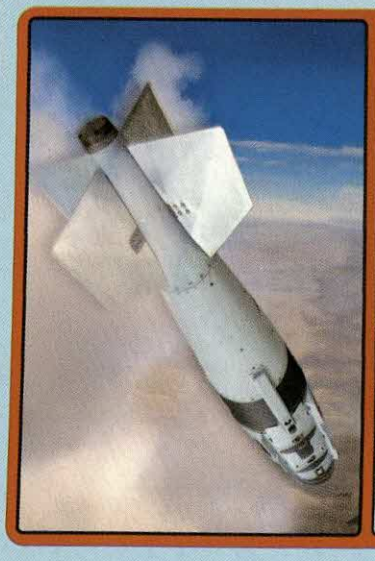
BIGGEST GUN
Schwerer Gustav, a gun used by the German Army during the siege of Sevastopol, USSR (now Ukraine) in July 1942, had a 28.87-m-long (94-ft 7-in) barrel and an 80-cm (31.5-in) calibre. It weighed 1,344 tonnes (1,323 tons) and had a range of 20.9 km (13 miles) for an 8.1-tonne (7.9-ton) projectile and 46.7 km (29 miles) for a 4.8-tonne (4.7-ton) projectile. The remains of the gun were discovered near Metzenhof, Bavaria, Germany, in Aug 1945.

HEAVIEST CANNON
A cannon built in Perm, Russia, in 1868 weighed a record 144.1 tonnes (141.8 tons).

GUN WITH GREATEST RANGE
The German-made Paris-Geschütz (Paris Gun), which shelled Paris, France, during World War I, had a designed range of 127 km (79 miles) and a calibre of 21 cm (8.3 in). The greatest range it actually achieved was 122 km (75.8 miles), from the Forest of Crépy, France, in March 1918.

HIGHEST SHOT FIRED BY A GUN
On 19 Nov 1966 the HARP (High Altitude Research Project) gun fired an 84-kg (185-lb) projectile to a record-breaking altitude of 180 km (112 miles) at Yuma, Arizona, USA. The gun, which consists of two barrels fused in tandem into a single 36.4-m-long (119-ft 5-in) barrel, weighs 150 tonnes (147.6 tons).

⊙ MOST EXPENSIVE FIGHTER PLANE
The US F22 Raptor, developed by Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Systems, Lockheed Martin Fort Worth and Boeing in the late 1990s, cost approximately $13.3 billion (£8 billion) – twice as much as its European counterpart, the Eurofighter.



⊙ MOST ACCURATE BOMB
The Joint Direct Attack Munition, developed by the US Air Force and the US Navy, is the most accurate bomb in the world. After release, its location is continually monitored by seven different satellites, and it can hit targets with an accuracy of within 2 m (6 ft 7 in).

HEAVIEST NUCLEAR BOMB
The heaviest known nuclear bomb was the MK 17, which was carried by US B-36 bombers in the mid-1950s. It weighed 19,050 kg (42,000 lb) and was 7.47 m (24 ft 6 in) long.

HEAVIEST CONVENTIONAL BOMB
The heaviest conventional bomb to be used operationally was the British Royal Air Force's Grand Slam, which weighed 9,980 kg (22,000 lb). The first Grand Slam bomb was dropped on Bielefeld Railway Viaduct, Germany, on 14 March 1945.

A bomb weighing 19,050 kg (42,000 lb) was tested by the US Air Force at Muroc Dry Lake, California, USA, in 1949.

MOST POWERFUL NUCLEAR MISSILE
The most powerful ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) is the former USSR's SS-18 (Model 5), which is believed to be armed with 10 750-kiloton MIRVs (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles). All SS-18 ICBMs had been returned to Russia by the end of April 1995, where 150 are still operational. If the START 2 (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks 2) agreement is fully implemented, the remaining SS-18s and all other ICBMs with more than one warhead will be destroyed.

MOST POWERFUL ATOMIC BOMB
A thermonuclear device with power equivalent to approximately 57 megatons of TNT was detonated by the former USSR in the Novaya Zemlya area on 30 Oct 1961.

The resulting shock wave circled the world three times, with each circuit taking 36 hr 27 min. Estimates put the power of the device at between 62 and 90 megatons.

MOST EXPENSIVE BOMBER
The world's most expensive military aircraft is the US B2 Spirit, currently priced at $1.3 billion (£796 million). A long-range multirole bomber, it is capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear munitions, and can carry a total payload of 18.14 tonnes (17.85 tons).

LONGEST-RANGE MISSILE
The US Atlas missile, which entered service in 1959, had a range of 16,669 km (10,360 miles) – about 4,828 km (3,000 miles) more than was necessary to hit any point in Soviet territory from launch sites in the West.

MOST POWERFUL TORPEDO
The Russian Type 65 is a 66-cm (26-in) torpedo, carries a warhead of nearly 1 tonne (2,016 lb) of conventional explosive or a 15-kiloton nuclear warhead – giving a slightly less explosive power than the bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

FASTEST-FIRING MACHINE GUN
Designed in the late 1960s for use in helicopters and armoured vehicles, the 7.62-mm (0.3-in) M134 Minigun is the world's fastest-firing machine gun. Based on the multiple-barrelled Gatling design, it has six barrels that are revolved by an electric motor and fed by a 4,000-round link belt. This allows for a firing rate of 6,000 rounds per minute – about 10 times that of an ordinary machine gun.

MOST ACCURATE PORTABLE ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE
The Stinger missile, introduced in the early 1980s, is 1.5 m (5 ft) long, weighs 10 kg (22 lb) and has a range of about 4.8 km (3 miles) and a speed of around 2,000 km/h (1,300 mph).

← MOST WIDELY USED FIREARM
The Kalashnikov AK-47, along with its variants, has been used in over 75 wars – more than any other firearm. Over 100 million units of the rifle have been assembled in 25 countries, often illegally.

Cars

⊙ FASTEST ELECTRIC CAR

On 22 Oct 1999 *White Lightning Electric Streamliner*, an electric car owned by Dempsey's World Record Associates, achieved a record speed of [illegible].821 km/h (245.951 mph) at the Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah, USA. The car was driven by Patrick Rummerfield (US).

HIGHEST LAND SPEED
The one-mile (1.609-km) land speed record is 1,227.985 km/h (763.055 mph), set by Andy Green (UK) in *Thrust SSC* in the Black Rock Desert, Nevada, USA, on 15 Oct 1997. The car is powered by two Rolls-Royce Spey 205 jet engines, which together generate 22.68 tonnes (22.32 tons) of thrust.

Kitty Hambleton (USA) holds the record for the fastest land speed achieved by a woman, having reached 843.323 km/h (524.030 mph) in the rocket-powered three-wheeled *SM1 Motivator* in the Alvard Desert, Oregon, USA, on 6 Dec 1976. Her official two-way record was 825.126 km/h (512.724 mph), and she is believed to have touched 965 km/h (600 mph) momentarily. For a land speed record to be bona fide, it has to be set twice; the vehicle first travelling one way over a set course, then returning to its start point.

FASTEST ROAD CAR
The highest speed ever reached by a standard production car is 386.7 km/h (240.3 mph), by a McLaren F1 driven by Andy Wallace (UK) at the Volkswagen Proving Ground, Wolfsburg, Germany, on 31 March 1998.

FASTEST ACCELERATION
The fastest road-tested acceleration on record is 0–96 km/h (0–60 mph) in 3.07 seconds, by a Ford RS200 Evolution driven by Graham Hathaway at Millbrook Proving Ground, Beds, UK, on 25 May 1994.

GREATEST FUEL RANGE
The greatest distance travelled on the contents of a standard fuel tank (capacity [illegible]0.1 litres) is 2,153.4 km (1,33[illegible] miles), by an Audi 100 TDI diesel car. The car was driven by Stuart Bladon (UK) from John O'Groats, Highlands & Islands, UK, to Land's End, Cornwall, UK, and back again between 26 and 28 July 1992.

⊙ HIGHEST LIMOUSINE

The world's highest limousine measures 3.33 m (10 ft 11 in) from ground to roof. Built by Gary Duval of Colton, California, USA, in just over 4,000 hours, it has two separate engines and an eight-wheel independent suspension system. It sits on eight monster truck tyres.

HIGHEST MILEAGE
The highest documented mileage for a car is 2,839,000 km (1,764,000 miles), for a 1966 Volvo P-1800S owned by Irvin Gordon of East Patchogue, New York, USA, as of Jan 2000.

BIGGEST CAR
The biggest car ever produced for private use was the Bugatti 'Royale' type 41, assembled at Molsheim, France, by the Italian designer Ettore Bugatti. First built in 1927, it has an eight-cylinder engine with a capacity of 12.7 litres, and is over 6.7 m (22 ft) long. Its bonnet alone is 2.13 m (7 ft) in length.

BIGGEST CAR ENGINES
Three production cars had engines with a capacity of 13.5 litres: the US Peerless 6-60 of 1912–14, the Pierce-Arrow 6-66 Raceabout of 1912–18 and the Fageol of 1918.

MOST POWERFUL CAR
The most powerful production car on the market is the McLaren F1 6.1, which develops in excess of 627 bhp. It can accelerate to 96 km/h (60 mph) in 3.2 seconds.

SMALLEST CAR
The smallest roadworthy car ever built was the Peel P50, constructed by Peel Engineering Co at Peel, Isle of Man, in 1962. It was 134 cm (52.8 in) long, 99 cm (39 in) wide and 134 cm (52.8 in) in height. It weighed 59 kg (130 lb).

LONGEST CAR
The longest car ever built was a 30.5-m-long (100-ft), 26-wheeled limousine designed by Jay Ohrberg of Burbank, California, USA. Intended mainly for use in films and exhibitions, it can be driven as a rigid vehicle or altered to bend in the middle. It has many features, including a swimming pool with a diving board and a king-sized waterbed.

MOST EXPENSIVE PRODUCTION CAR
The world's most expensive production car is the Mercedes Benz CLK/LM, which costs $1,547,620 (£950,000). It has a top speed of 320 km/h (200 mph) and can accelerate from 0–100 km/h (0–62 mph) in 3.8 seconds.

CHEAPEST CARS
The 1922 Red Bug Buckboard, built by the Briggs & Stratton Co of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, went on sale for $125–$150 (£28–£34), equivalent to around $996 (£650) today. It had a 1.57-cm (61.8-in) wheelbase and weighed 111 kg (245 lb).

Early models of the US King Midget cars, which were made in kit form for self-assembly, sold for as little as $100 (£25) in 1948. Today, this would be equivalent to around $800 (£500).

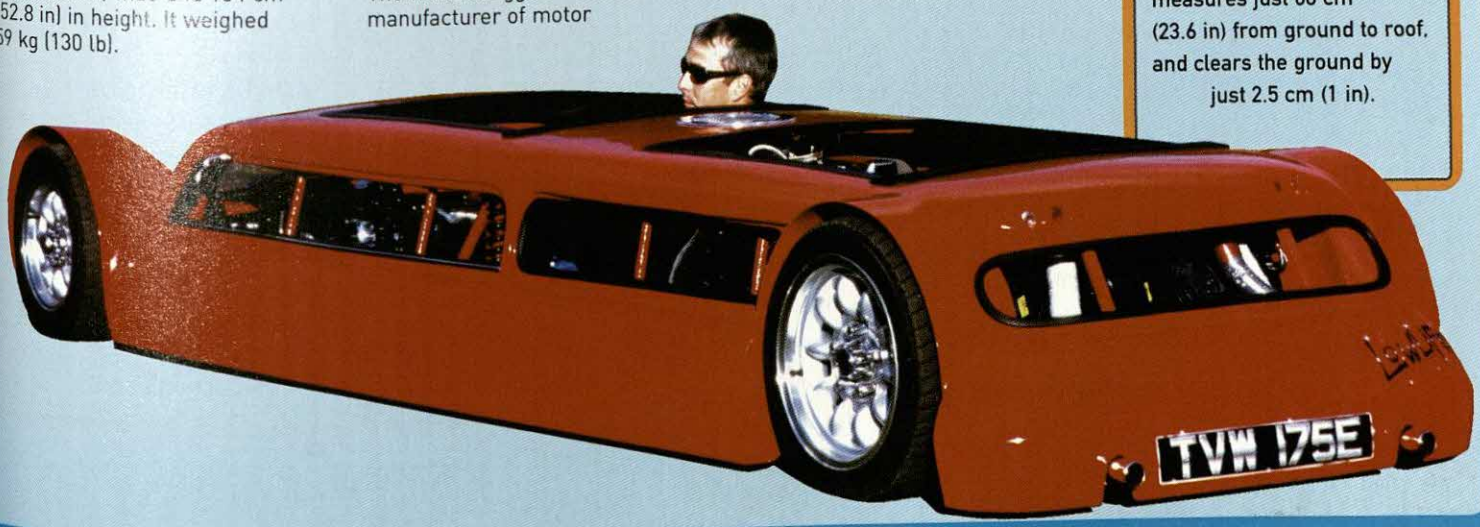
BIGGEST CAR MANUFACTURER
The world's biggest manufacturer of motor vehicles and parts (and the largest manufacturing company) is General Motors Corporation of Detroit, Michigan, USA. The company currently has 388,000 employees, and has produced more than 8,600,000 cars worldwide to date.

MOST POPULAR CAR
A total of 24,208,483 Toyota Corollas have been produced since the car's launch in 1966.

MOST VALUABLE CAR
A 1931 Berline de Voyage Royale was bought for $8.1 million (£5.6 million) by Thomas Monaghan of Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, in 1986.

⊙ GREATEST FUEL EFFICIENCY
A car designed by the Microjoule Team from Toulouse, France, achieved a performance of 3.485 km/litre (9.845 mpg) at the Shell Eco Marathon, Silverstone, Northants, UK, on 15 July 1999. It was driven by 14-year-old Julien Lebrigand (left) and 10-year-old Thibaud Maindru.

← LOWEST CAR
Lowlife, a car produced by Perry Watkins (left) of Aylesbury, Bucks, UK, measures just 60 cm (23.6 in) from ground to roof, and clears the ground by just 2.5 cm (1 in).



Trucks, Trains & Buses

LONGEST VEHICLE
The Arctic Snow Train, built by RG LeTourneau Inc of Longview, Texas, USA, for the US Army, is 174.3 m (572 ft) long, with 54 wheels and a gross weight of 406 tonnes (400 tons). Its fuel capacity is 29,648 litres (6,522 gal), and it has a top speed of 32 km/h (20 mph). It is driven by a crew of six.

LONGEST ROAD TRAIN
The world's longest road train (a line of trailers pulled by a single truck) was driven by Greg Marley on the Great Eastern Highway at Merredin, Australia, on 3 April 1999. He used a Kenworth Tri-Drive Cab Over Model K100G to pull 45 trailers, giving an overall length of 610.7 m (2,003 ft 7 in)

BIGGEST FORK LIFT TRUCKS
In 1991 Kalmar LMV of Lidhult, Sweden, manufactured three counterbalanced fork lift trucks capable of lifting loads of up to 90 tonnes (88 tons) at a load centre of 2.4 m (7 ft 6 in). The trucks were built for use in the construction of two pipelines, one running from Sarir to the Gulf of Sirte and the other running from Tazirbu to Benghazi, all Libya.

BIGGEST MONSTER TRUCK
The monster truck *Bigfoot 5* is 4.7 m (15 ft 6 in) high, has 3-m-high (10-ft) tyres and weighs 17,236 kg (38,000 lb). It was built by Bob Chandler of St Louis, Missouri, USA.

LONGEST TRACTOR WHEELIE
Heiner Rohrs drove a record distance of 5 km (3 miles) on the back wheels of a tractor at Fintel, Lower Saxony, Germany, on 20 Aug 1995.

LONGEST SIDE-WHEEL DRIVE IN A TRUCK
On 19 May 1991 Sven-Erik Söderman drove a 7.6-tonne (7.5-ton) Daf 2800 truck a distance of 10.83 km (6 miles 1,277 yd) on two side wheels at Mora Siljan Airport, Mora City, Sweden.

BIGGEST SNOWPLOUGH BLADE
The snowplough with the world's biggest blade was made by Aero Snow Removal Corporation of New York City, USA, in 1992, for use at JFK International Airport. Its blade is 15.3 m (50 ft 2 in) long, 1.24 m (4 ft 1 in) high and can clear 31 m³ (1,095 ft³) of snow in one pass.

⊙ BIGGEST EARTHMOVER
The L-1800 loader, developed by RG LeTourneau Inc, is 17.83 m (58 ft 6 in) long and weighs 217.5 tonnes (214 tons). It has a payload capacity of 45.4 tonnes (44.6 tons) and a bucket capacity of 25.2 m³ (33 yd³).

BIGGEST CARAVAN
The world's largest caravan is a two-wheeled five-storey model that was built in 1990 for Sheik Hamad Bin Hamdan Al Nahyan of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. It is 20 m (66 ft) long, 12 m (39 ft) wide and weighs a record 122 tonnes (120 tons). It contains eight bedrooms and four garages.

BIGGEST AMBULANCES
The world's largest ambulances are the 18-m-long (59-ft) articulated Alligator

⊙ LONGEST BUSES
The longest rigid single bus (seen left) is 14.96 m (49 ft) in length. Built by Van Hool of Belgium, it can carry 69 passengers. The buses with the greatest overall length are the 32.20-m-long (105-ft 8-in) articulated DAF Super CityTrain buses of the Democratic Republic of Congo. They have room for a total of 350 passengers: 250 in the first trailer and 100 in the second.

Jumbulances Marks VI, VII, VIII and IX, operated by the ACROSS Trust to take sick and disabled people on holidays and pilgrimages across Europe. Built by Van Hool of Belgium at a cost of $306,000 (£200,000), they can each carry a total of 44 patients and staff.

FASTEST RAILED VEHICLE
The highest speed attained by a railed vehicle is Mach 8 (9,851 km/h, or 6,121 mph), by an unmanned rocket sled over the 15.2-km-long (9.4-mile) rail track at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, USA, on 5 Oct 1982.

FASTEST MAGLEV
On 14 April 1999 the MLX01, a Maglev (manned superconducting magnetically levitated vehicle) operated by the Central Japan Railway Company reached a record speed of 552 km/h (343 mph) on the Yamanashi Maglev Test Line between Otsuki and Tsuru, Japan.

LONGEST PASSENGER TRAIN
The longest passenger train on record had a length of 1,733 m (5,686 ft) and weighed 2,786 tonnes (2,742 tons). Set up as a one-off by the National Belgian Railway Company on 27 April 1991, it was made up of 70 coaches pulled by one electric locomotive. The train travelled from Ghent to Ostend, Belgium – a distance of 62.5 km (38 mile 1,320 yd) – in 1 hr 11 min 5 sec.

LONGEST FREIGHT TRAIN
A freight train with a record length of 7.3 km (4 miles 880 yd), comprising 660 wagons, a tank car and a caboose, travelled a distance of 861 km (535 miles) on the Sishen–Saldanha railway, South Africa, on 26–27 Aug 1989. Moved by nine 50-kV electric and seven diesel-electric locomotives, it took 22 hr 40 min to complete the journey.

OLDEST STEAM LOCOMOTIVE IN USE
The Fairy Queen, built in 1855 by Kitson, Thompson & Hewitson of Leeds, W Yorks, UK, was used by the East India Railway Company until 1909. It was restored in 1966, and since Oct 1997 has been used to haul a twin-coach train on the 143-km (89-mile) trip between Delhi and Alwar, Rajasthan, India. The journey, which takes 5 hr 30 min, is mainly made by tourists.

BIGGEST STEAM LOCOMOTIVE
The South African Railways GMA Garratt type 4-8-2+2-8-4, which was built between 1952 and 1954, weighs 187.4 tonnes (184.4 tons).

FASTEST STEAM LOCOMOTIVE
The highest speed ever reached by a steam locomotive is 201 km/h (125 mph), a record set by the LNER 4-6-2 No 4468 Mallard (later numbered 60022) when it hauled seven coaches with a gross weight of 243 tonnes (239 tons) a distance of 402 m (440 yd) down Stoke Bank near Essendine, UK, on 3 July 1938.

OLDEST TRAMS
The oldest trams still in service are Motorcars 1 and 2 of the Manx Electric Railway, which date from 1893. They regularly make the 28.5-km (17-mile 1,249-yd) journey between Douglas and Ramsey, Isle of Man.

EARLIEST BUS SERVICE
The first municipal motorbus service in the world was inaugurated on 12 April 1903. It ran between Eastbourne Railway Station and Meads, E Sussex, UK.

↓ FASTEST RAIL SYSTEM SPEED
The highest speed recorded on any national rail system is 515.3 km/h (320 mph), by the SNCF TGV (Train à Grande Vitesse) Atlantique between Courtalain and Tours, France, on 18 May 1990.

Bikes & Motorbikes

SMALLEST BICYCLE
The world's smallest wheeled rideable bicycle has a front wheel with a diameter of 11 mm (0.43 in) and a back wheel with a diameter of 13 mm (0.51 in). It was ridden by its constructor, Zbigniew Rózanek of Pleszew, Poland, for a distance of 5 m (16 ft) on 11 Aug 1999.

BIGGEST BICYCLE
The largest bicycle in the world is *Frankencycle*, built by Dave Moore of Rosemead, California, USA, and first ridden by Steve Gordon of Moorpark, California, on 4 June 1989. It is 3.4 m (11 ft 2 in) high, with a wheel diameter of 3.05 m (10 ft).

LIGHTEST BICYCLE
A bicycle made from titanium and carbon fibre, weighing 5.45 kg (12 lb 1 oz), was built by Dionisio Coronado of San Sebastian, Spain, in 1999. It was ridden by Miguel Capelli in the Veleta Peak race, Spain, in July 1999.

BICYCLE WITH MOST GEAR COMBINATIONS
A 48.5-kg (107-lb) bicycle built by Leon Chassman of Taylor, Michigan, USA, has 1,500 gear combinations. Made mainly from the salvaged parts of 27 other bicycles, it has two sets of 10-speed gears and one set of 15-speed gears. With a wheel size of 51 cm (20 in) and a wheel base of 142 cm (56 in), it was completed in 1998.

FASTEST CYCLIST
The highest speed ever achieved on a bicycle is 268.831 km/h (166.944 mph), by Fred Rompelberg (Netherlands) at Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah, USA, on 3 Oct 1995. His record attempt was greatly assisted by the slipstream from his lead vehicle.

LONGEST BICYCLE WHEELIE JOURNEY
The longest bicycle wheelie journey was one of 4,569 km (2,839 miles) made by Kurt Osburn of Fullerton, California, USA. He travelled from the Guinness World of Records Museum in Hollywood, California, USA, to the Guinness World of Records Museum in Orlando, Florida, USA, between 13 April and 25 June 1999.

MOST PEOPLE ON A BICYCLE
A record of 19 people on one bicycle was set by members of Jago Sports Club, Semerang, Java, Indonesia, on 30 June 1988. They cycled a total distance of 200 m (656 ft).

⊙ LONGEST BICYCLE WHEELIE
On 8 Aug 1998 Kurt Osburn (USA) rode for a record 11 hours on the back wheel of a bicycle at the Anaheim Convention Center, California, USA.

SMALLEST UNICYCLE
Peter Rosendahl (Sweden) rode a 20-cm-high (8-in) unicycle with a wheel diameter of 18 mm (0.71 in) a record distance of 8.5 m (27 ft 10 in) at the ZDF TV Studios, Unterföhring, Germany, on 29 March 1998. The unicycle has no attachments or extensions fitted.

TALLEST UNICYCLE
The tallest rideable unicycle was 31.01 m (101 ft 8 in) high. It was ridden by Steve McPeak (with a safety wire suspended from an overhead crane) for a distance of 114.6 m (376 ft) at Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, in Oct 1980.

FASTEST UNICYCLISTS
Peter Rosendahl set a sprint record for 100 m from a standing start of 12.11 sec (29.72 km/h, or 18.47 mph) at Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, on 25 March 1994.

Takayuki Koike of Kanagawa, Japan, set a record for 100 miles (160.9 km) of 6 hr 44 min 21.84 sec on 9 Aug 1987. His average speed was 23.87 km/h, or 14.83 mph.

SMALLEST MOTORCYCLE
Simon Timperley and Clive Williams of Progressive Engineering Ltd, Greater Manchester, UK, designed and constructed a motorcycle with a wheel base of 108 mm (4.25 in), a seat height of 95 mm (3.74 in),

⊙ LONGEST BICYCLE
The longest true bicycle (ie one without a third stabilizing wheel) is 25.88 m (84 ft 11 in) in length, with a weight of 1,750 kg (3,858 lb). Designed by Super Tandem Club Ceparana of Ceparana, Italy, it was ridden a distance of 112.2 m (368 ft) by 40 members of the club on 20 Sept 1998. Not surprisingly, cornering is a problem for the bike.

a front wheel with a diameter of 19 mm (0.75 in) and a back wheel with a diameter of 24 mm (0.95 in). The bike was ridden a distance of 1 m (3 ft 3 in).

LONGEST MOTORCYCLE
Douglas and Roger Bell of Perth, Western Australia, designed and built a 7.6-m-long (24-ft 11-in) motorbike that weighed nearly 2,000 kg (4,409 lb).

MOST EXPENSIVE MOTORCYCLE
The Italian-made Marbidelli 850 V8 is the world's most expensive production motorbike, retailing at $102,872 (£62,983) in 1998.

FASTEST PRODUCTION MOTORCYCLE
The Suzuki Hayabusa GSX 1300R is reported to be able to reach speeds of 312 km/h (194 mph), making it the fastest production bike in the world.

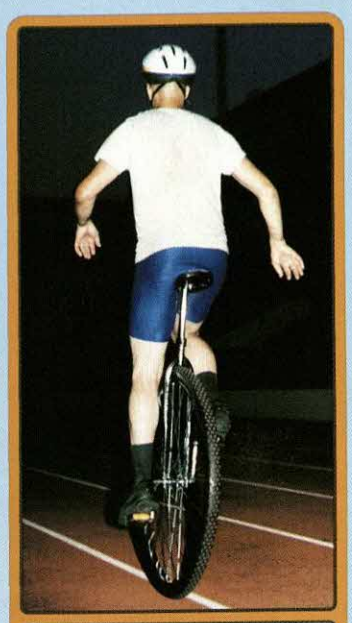
BIGGEST MOTORCYCLE MANUFACTURER
The Honda Motor Company of Japan is the largest manufacturer of motorcycles in the world. In 1998 Honda sold a record total of 5.1 million bikes to retailers around the world.

FASTEST MOTORCYCLIST
On 14 July 1990 Dave Campos (USA) set American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) and Fédération Internationale de Motorcylisme (FIM) absolute speed records on the 7-m-long (23-ft) streamliner *Easyriders*, powered by two 1,491-cc Ruxton Harley-Davidson engines. Campos' overall average speed was 518.45 km/h (322.16 mph) and he completed the faster run at an average speed of 519.609 km/h (322.870 mph). The record was set at Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah, USA.

FASTEST MOTORCYCLE WHEELIE
The highest speed attained on the back wheel of a motorcycle is 307.86 km/h (191.3 mph), by Patrick Furstenhoff (Sweden) on a Honda Super Blackbird 1,100-cc Turbo at Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground, Leicestershire, UK, on 18 April 1999.

LONGEST MOTORCYCLE WHEELIE
Yasuyuki Kudo covered a distance of 331 km (205.7 miles) on the back wheel of his Honda TLM220R motorcycle at the Japan Automobile Research Institute proving ground, Tsukuba, near Tsuchiura, Japan, on 5 May 1991.

MOST EXPENSIVE PRODUCTION SCOOTER
The Suzuki AN 400 Burgman is the most expensive scooter in production, costing $6,660 (£4,199), with an on-road charge of $396 (£250).



⊙ LONGEST BACKWARDS UNICYCLE
Steve Gordon (USA) unicycled backwards for 109.4 km (68 miles) at Southwestern Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri, USA, on 24 June 1999.

↓ TALLEST MOTORCYCLE
The tallest rideable motorcycle is *Bigtoe*, which has a maximum height of 2.3 m (7.5 ft) and a top speed of 100 km/h (62 mph). Built by Tom Wiberg (Sweden), it is powered by a Jaguar V12 engine.

Ships, Boats & Submarines

⊙ BIGGEST CRUISE LINER
The world's biggest cruise liner is *Voyager of the Sea*, which is 311 m (1,020 ft) long and 48 m (157.5 ft) wide, with a gross tonnage of 142,000. It can accommodate 3,114 passengers and 1,181 crew.

BIGGEST SAILING SHIPS
The biggest sailing vessel ever built was the 5,900-tonne (5,806-ton) *France II*, which was launched at Bordeaux, France, in 1911. This steel-hulled, five-masted barque had a 127.4-m (418-ft) hull, and although principally designed as a sailing vessel with a stump top gallant rig, was also fitted with two auxiliary engines. These were removed in 1919, making it a pure sailing vessel. *France II* was wrecked off the coast of New Caledonia on 12 July 1922.

The largest sailing ship currently in service is the 109-m-long (358-ft) *Sedov*, which was built in Kiel, Germany, in 1921 and is now used for training by the Russian Navy. It is 14.6 m (48 ft) wide, with a displacement of 6,300 tonnes (6,200 tons) and a sail area of 4,192 m² (45,124 ft²).

BIGGEST SAIL
The 47.9-m (157-ft) sloop *Hyperion*, built by Wolter Huisman (Netherlands), has a sail with an area of 520 m² (5,600 ft²). The boat was commissioned by Netscape founder Jim Clark (USA) in 1995.

FASTEST SAILING VESSEL
On 26 Oct 1993 the trifoiler *Yellow Pages Endeavour* reached a record speed of 46.52 knots (86.21 km/h, or 53.57 mph) while on a timed run of 500 m (547 yd) at Sandy Point near Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

OLDEST ACTIVE SAILING VESSEL
The oldest sea-going sailing vessel is the 1,216-tonne (1,197-ton) iron barque *Star of India*, which was built at Ramsey, Isle of Man, in 1863 as the full-rigged ship *Euterpe*. It is now preserved as a museum ship in San Diego, California, USA, but still makes occasional day-trips under sail.

BIGGEST YACHT
The Saudi Arabian royal yacht *Abdul Aziz*, which was built in Denmark and completed at Vospers Yard, Southampton, Hants, UK, in June 1984, is 147 m (482 ft) long.

BIGGEST JUNK
The sea-going *Zheng He* had a displacement of 3,150 tonnes (3,100 tons) and an estimated length of 164 m (538 ft). The flagship of Admiral Zheng He's 62 treasure ships c.1420, it is believed to have had nine masts.

LONGEST CANOE
The Maori war canoe *Nga Toki Matawhaorua*, which was shaped with adzes at Kerikeri Inlet, New Zealand, in 1940, is 35.7 m (117 ft 1 in) long and 2 m (6 ft 7 in) wide. It can carry a total of 135 people – 80 paddlers and 55 passengers.

BIGGEST CAR FERRY
In terms of tonnage, the largest car and passenger ferry is *Silja Europa*, which entered service between Stockholm, Sweden, and Helsinki, Finland, in 1993. Operated by Silja Line, it has a gross tonnage of 59,914, a length of 201.8 m (662 ft) and a beam of 32.4 m (107 ft). It can carry 3,000 passengers, 350 cars and 60 lorries.

FASTEST CAR FERRY
Lucian Federico Z has a top speed of 60 knots (111.2 km/h, or 69.1 mph) and a loaded speed of 57 knots (105.6 km/h, or 65.6 mph). It was designed in Australia by Advanced Multi-Hull Designs, built in Spain by Bazan, and operates on the 177-km (110-mile) Rio de la Plata route from Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Montevideo, Uruguay. It can carry 52 cars and 450 passengers.

BIGGEST HOVERCRAFT
The 56.4-m-long (185-ft) SRN4 Mk III, a British-built civil hovercraft, weighs 310 tonnes (305 tons) and is large enough to accommodate a total of 418 passengers and 60 cars. Powered by four Bristol Siddeley Marine Proteus engines, it has a maximum speed in excess of 65 knots (120 km/h, or 75 mph), which is the permitted cross-Channel operating speed.

BIGGEST CARGO VESSEL
The oil tanker *Jahre Viking* (formerly known as *Happy Giant* and *Seawise Giant*) is 458.4 m (1,504 ft) long and weighs 564,763 dwt. It has a beam of 68.8 m (225 ft 9 in) and a draught of 24.6 m (80 ft 8 in). The tanker was almost totally destroyed during the Iran-Iraq war, but underwent a $60-million (£34-million) renovation in Singapore and

⊙ BIGGEST CATAMARAN

The largest and most expensive catamaran ever built is the £4-million ($6.3-million) *Team Philips*, which is 36.6 m (120 ft) long, 21.3 m (70 ft) wide, 41.5 m (136 ft) high and weighs 13.7 tonnes (13.5 tons). Made of carbon fibre, it has two razor-sharp hulls that allow it to slice through waves rather than bounce over them, and is capable of reaching speeds of up to 40 knots (80 km/h, or 50 mph). The man behind *Team Philips* is Pete Goss from Torpoint, Cornwall, UK, a former Royal Marine who received an MBE and France's Legion d'Honneur in 1996 for turning back during the Vendee Globe round-the-world race to rescue fellow competitor Raphael Dinelli.

the United Arab Emirates before being relaunched under its new name in Nov 1991.

BIGGEST BATTLESHIPS
The Japanese battleships *Yamato* and *Musashi*, which were both sunk by the USA during World War II, had an overall length of 263 m (863 ft), a beam of 38.7 m (127 ft), a full load displacement of 71,111 tonnes (69,988 tons) and a full load draught of 10.8 m (35 ft 5 in). Each was armed with nine 22.8-m-long (75 ft) guns, which weighed 164.6 tonnes (162 tons) and fired 1,460-kg (3,200-lb) projectiles.

BIGGEST CONTAINER SHIP
The largest container vessel now in service is *Regina Maersk*, which was built at Odense, Denmark. Completed in Jan 1996, it has a gross tonnage of 81,488 and a capacity of 6,000 Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs).

GREATEST DEPTH REACHED BY A SUBMARINE
On 11 Aug 1989 the Japanese research submarine *Shinkai 6500* reached a record depth of 6,527 m (21,414 ft) in the Japan Trench off Sanriku, Japan.

MOST VALUABLE SHIPWRECK
The late treasure-hunter Mel Fisher (USA) found the *Nuestra Señora de Atocha* off the Key West coast, Florida, USA, in 1985. The ship had been carrying 40 tonnes (39.4 tons) of gold and silver and 31.75 kg (70 lb) of emeralds when it went down in a hurricane in Sept 1622.

→ SMALLEST SUBMARINE

The world's smallest fully-functional submarine is *Water Beatle*, which is 2.95 m (9 ft 8 in) long, 1.15 m (3 ft 9 in) wide and 1.42 m (4 ft 8 in) high. Built in 1991 by William Smith (right) of Bognor Regis, W Sussex, UK, it can reach depths of approximately 30.5 m (100 ft), remaining underwater for at least four hours. It is currently being used for locating aircraft wreckage off the Sussex coast.

Aircraft

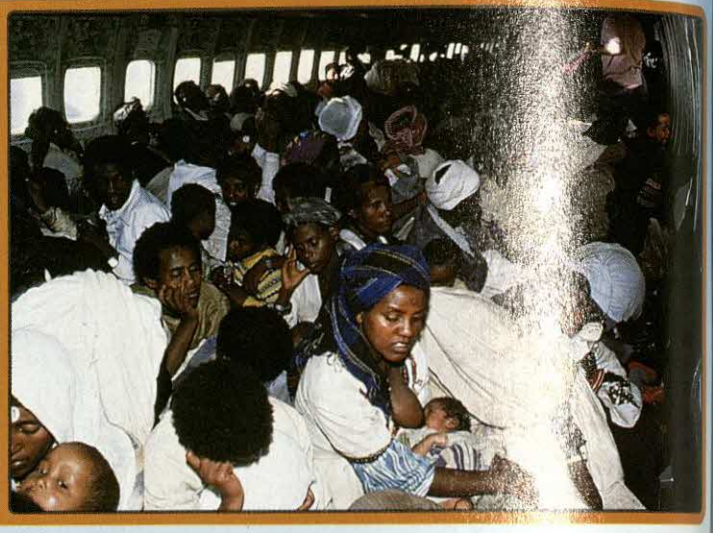
FASTEST AIRCRAFT
The fastest combat jet is the former Soviet Mikoyan MiG-25 fighter, which NATO codenamed 'Foxbat'. The single-seat reconnaissance 'Foxbat-B' has a wingspan of 13.95 m (45 ft 9 in), a length of 23.82 m (78 ft 2 in) and an estimated maximum take-off weight of 37.4 tonnes (36.8 tons). It has been tracked by radar at speeds of about Mach 3.2 (3,395 km/h, or 2,110 mph).

The fastest propeller-driven aircraft is the former Soviet Tu-95/142, codenamed 'Bear' by NATO. It has four 11,033-kW (14,795-hp) engines driving eight-blade contra-rotating propellers, and a maximum level speed of Mach 0.82 (925 km/h, or 575 mph).

The fastest biplane was the one-off Italian Fiat CR42B, which had a 753-kW (1,010-hp) Daimler-Benz DB601A engine. It reached a speed of 520 km/h (323 mph) in 1941.

The highest speed achieved by a piston-engined aircraft is 850.24 km/h (528.33 mph) over a 3-km (1-mile 1,520-yd) course, by *Rare Bear*, a modified Grumman F8F Bearcat piloted by Lyle Shelton. The record was set on 21 Aug 1989 at Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

⊙ GREATEST PASSENGER LOAD
The greatest number of passengers carried by a single commercial airliner is 1,088, by an El Al Boeing 747 during Operation Solomon, which began on 24 May 1991. The purpose of the operation was to evacuate Ethiopian Jews to Israel following the toppling of the Ethiopian government. The figure includes two babies born during the flight.



FASTEST AIRLINERS
The Tupolev Tu-144, first flown on 31 Dec 1968, was reported to have reached Mach 2.4 (2,587 km/h, or 1,600 mph), but had a normal cruising speed of Mach 2.2. It flew at Mach 1 for the first time on 5 June 1969, and exceeded Mach 2 on 26 May 1970, being the first commercial airliner to do so. The plane started making scheduled flights on 26 Dec 1975, when it was employed to carry freight and mail. Today it is being used in a joint venture by Tupolev and NASA to aid NASA's development of supersonic passenger aircraft.

The BAC/Aérospatiale Concorde, first flown on 2 March 1969, cruises at speeds of up to Mach 2.2 (2,333 km/h, or 1,450 mph). On 21 Jan 1976 it became the first supersonic airliner to be used on passenger services, and set the New York–London speed record – 2 hr 54 min 38 sec – on 14 April 1990.

BIGGEST HELICOPTERS
The Russian Mil Mi-12 had a rotor diameter of 67 m (219 ft 10 in), a length of 37 m (121 ft 4 in) and a weight of 103.3 tonnes (101.6 tons). Powered by four 4,847-kW (6,500-hp) turboshaft engines, it was demonstrated as a prototype at the Paris Air Show, France, in 19[illegible], but never entered service.

The largest helicopter currently being produced is the 40-m-long (131-ft) Russian Mil Mi-26, which has a maximum take-off weight of 56 tonnes (55.1 tons) and an unladen weight of 28.2 tonnes (27.7 tons). Its eight-bladed main rotor has a diameter of 32 m (105 ft) and is powered by two 925-kW (11,240-hp) static HP turbo shaft engines.

SMALLEST HELICOPTER
The single-seat Seremet WS-8 ultra-light helicopter, which was built in Denmark in 1976, had a 26-kW (35-hp) engine and a weight of 53 kg (117 lb) when empty. Its rotor measured 4.5 m (14 ft 9 in) in diameter.

⊙ BIGGEST WORKING AIRSHIP
The largest working airship is the WDL 1B, three models of which have been built at Mulheim, Germany. It is 60 m (197 ft) long and has an inflated volume of 7,200 m³ (254,232 ft³).

BIGGEST BALLOON
The largest balloon ever built had an inflated volume of 2 million m³ (70 million ft³) and a height of 300 m (1,000 ft). Manufactured by Winzen Research Inc (now Winzen Engineering Inc) of South St Paul, Minnesota, USA, it was destroyed at its launch on 8 July 1975.

BIGGEST AIRSHIPS
The world's largest airships were the 213.9-tonne (210.5-ton) German *Hindenburg* (LZ 129) and *Graf Zeppelin II* (LZ 130), both of which were 245 m (803 ft 10 in) long with a hydrogen gas capacity of 200,000 m³ (7,062,100 ft³). The *Hindenburg* first flew in 1936, exploding and crashing on 6 May 1937, and the *Graf Zeppelin II* first flew in 1938.

GREATEST MASS ASCENT
The greatest mass ascent from a single site took place on 15 Aug 1987, when 128 hot-air balloons took off in the course of one hour at the Ninth Bristol International Balloon Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol, UK.

SMALLEST AIRCRAFT
The smallest twin-engined aircraft is believed to be the Colombian MGI5 Cricri, first flown on 19 July 1973, which has a wingspan of 4.9 m (16 ft) and a length of 3.91 m (12 ft 10 in). It is powered by two 11.19-kW (15-hp) JPX PUL engines.

The smallest biplane ever flown was *Bumble Bee Two*, which was designed and built by Robert H Starr of Tempe, Arizona, USA. Capable of carrying just one person, it was 2.69 m (8 ft 10 in) long and had a wingspan of 1.68 m (5 ft 6 in). It weighed 179.6 kg (396 lb) when empty and was capable of attaining a speed of 306 km/h (190 mph). On 8 May 1988 it crashed and was totally destroyed after flying to an altitude of 120 m (394 ft). Its pilot suffered serious injuries, but went on to make a full recovery.

Baby Bird, designed and built by Donald R Stits, is the smallest monoplane ever flown. It is 3.35 m (11 ft) long, with a wingspan of 1.91 m (6 ft 3 in) and a weight of 114.3 kg (252 lb) when empty. It is powered by a 41-kW (55-hp) two-cylinder Hirth engine, giving it a top speed of 177 km/h (110 mph). *Baby Bird* was first flown by Harold Nemer on 4 Aug 1984 at Camarillo, California, USA.

The smallest jet is *Silver Bullet*, which was built by Bob and Mary Ellen Bishop of Aguila, Arizona, USA, in 1976. It is 3.7 m (12 ft) long, has a 5.2-m (17-ft) wingspan, weighs 198 kg (437 lb) and can fly at 483 km/h (300 mph).

↑ FASTEST WINGED AIRCRAFT
On 3 Oct 1967 the US-built rocket plane X-15A-2, piloted by Major William J 'Pete' Knight (USA), achieved an absolute speed record of Mach 6.7 (7,274 km/h, or 4,520 mph) above the Mojave Desert, California, USA. This record stood until it was broken by the Space Shuttle in 1980. Neil Armstrong (USA, left) made seven flights in the plane from Dec 1960 to July 1962, reaching a speed of Mach 5.74 (6,420 km/h, or 3,989 mph) and a peak altitude of 63,246 m (207,500 ft). The highest altitude ever reached by the X-15A was 107,960 m (354,200 ft).

Spacecraft

BIGGEST ROCKET
The biggest rocket ever built was *Saturn 5*, which was 110.6 m (363 ft) high with the *Apollo* spacecraft on top. It weighed 2,903 tonnes (2,857 tons) on the launch pad and had a thrust of 3,447 tonnes (3,392 tons).

SMALLEST ROCKET
The smallest rocket in the world was *Pegasus*, a 15-m-long (49-ft 2-in) three-stage booster first launched in 1990. It has now been succeeded by an operational *Pegasus XL* version.

MOST POWERFUL ROCKET
The giant *N1* rocket, designed as a key part of the Soviet programme to land a person on the Moon, had a thrust of 4,620 tonnes (4,546 tons). However, it exploded shortly after takeoff on its first launch in Feb 1969, and three other launch attempts also failed.

MOST EXPENSIVE ROCKETS
The US rocket *Saturn 5* was built for the *Apollo* Moon landing programme, which had cost approximately $25 billion (£10.5 billion) by the time of the first flight to the Moon in July 1969.

Commercial customers have been charged a total of more than $120 million (£72.4 million) for launches to orbit communications satellites aboard the US commercial rocket *Titan*. *Titan* is no longer on the market.

CHEAPEST ROCKETS
The cheapest US rocket was *Pegasus*, which was developed with a budget of $45 million (£27 million) and cost approximately $10 million (£6 million) per launch.

Even cheaper rockets have probably been built in China and the former Soviet Union, but precise costings are not available.

FASTEST SPACECRAFT
The joint NASA–German *Helios A* and *B* solar probes reach a record speed of approximately 252,800 km/h (157,000 mph) every time they reach the perihelion of their solar orbits – the point at which they are closest to the Sun.

SMALLEST MANNED SPACECRAFT
The Manned Manoeuvring Unit (MMU), used by astronauts working outside the Space Shuttle, is 1.24 m (4 ft) tall, 0.83 m (2 ft 8 in) wide, 1.12 m (3 ft 8 in) deep and weighs just 109 kg (240 lb). Powered by nitrogen thrusters, it was first used on shuttle mission STS-41-B in Feb 1984, when astronaut Bruce McCandless manoeuvred up to 100 m (328 ft) away from *Challenger*.

MOST RELIABLE LAUNCH SYSTEM
Between April 1981 and Jan 1998 the US Space Shuttle successfully completed 88 out of 89 launches, a reliability rate of 98.8%.

LEAST RELIABLE LAUNCH SYSTEM
The US satellite launch vehicle *Pegasus* made 14 successful and 12 unsuccessful launches between 5 April 1990 and 6 May 1997, giving it a reliability rate of just 53.85%.

OLDEST ORBITING SATELLITE
The oldest satellite still orbiting the Earth is the 1.4-kg (3.08-lb) *Vanguard 1* (USA), which was launched in March 1958. It is still in orbit, but no longer operational. By 20 March 2000 it had completed 165,869 orbits of the Earth, a total distance of 9 billion km (5.6 billion miles).

⊙ MOST REMOTE MAN-MADE OBJECT
Voyager 1, which was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, USA, in Sept 1977, is currently the most remote man-made object in the universe, being at a distance of 11.5 billion km (7.1 billion miles) from Earth as of Feb 2000. Now at the very edge of the Solar System, it is expected to enter interstellar space within approximately 10 years.

⊙ LONGEST SHUTTLE FLIGHT
Columbia's 21st mission, STS-80, began on 19 Nov 1996 and lasted for 17 days 15 hr 53 min 26 sec to main gear shutdown, beating its own previous record. The mission had a crew of five: Ken Cockrell (commander), Tom Jones, Tamara Jernigan, Story Musgrave and Kent Rominger (left to right).

→ MOST EXPENSIVE TELESCOPE
The 30-year Hubble Space Telescope project has a total budget of $7 billion (£4.4 billion). Development began in 1980 and Hubble was launched on 25 April 1990. It is scheduled to be in orbit until 2010.

FASTEST ESCAPE VELOCITY FROM EARTH
On 7 Oct 1990 the ESA *Ulysses* spacecraft achieved a record escape velocity of 54,614 km/h (33,936 mph) from the Earth after deployment from the space shuttle *Discovery*. The craft was en route to an orbit around the Sun via a fly-by of Jupiter.

MOST POWERFUL ROCKET ENGINE
The *RD-170*, which was built in the former USSR in 1985, has a thrust of 806 tonnes (793 tons) in open Space and 740 tonnes (728 tons) at the Earth's surface. It also has a turbopump rated at 190 MW. The engine powered the four strap-on boosters of the *Energiya* booster, launched in 1987.

FIRST DIRECT LUNAR HIT
On 14 Sept 1959 the Soviet space probe *Luna II* achieved the first ever direct hit on the Moon, landing at a location near the Sea of Tranquillity.

FLY-BY CLOSEST TO A CELESTIAL OBJECT
On 28 July 1999 the spacecraft *Deep Space 1* (*DS1*) passed within 10 km (6 miles) of the asteroid 9969 Braille. *DS1* moved at a relative speed of 15.5 km/sec (nearly 10 miles/sec), more than 50 times faster than the speed of a commercial jet, and twice as fast as the Space Shuttle.

CLOSEST APPROACH TO THE SUN BY A ROCKET
On 16 April 1976 the research spacecraft *Helios B* approached within 43.5 million km (27 million miles) of the Sun.

BIGGEST SHUTTLE PAYLOAD
Chandra, the 13.7-m-long (45-ft) X-ray telescope launched by the NASA STS-93 mission in July 1999, is the biggest payload ever carried by the Space Shuttle.

LOUDEST LAUNCH
The noise created by the launch of the unmanned *Apollo 4* on 9 Nov 1967 was so great that the resulting air pressure wave was detected at the Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory 1,770 km (1,100 miles) away.

Buildings & Structures 1

TALLEST BUILDING
The world's tallest free-standing tower (as opposed to guyed mast) is the CN Tower in Toronto, Canada, which has a height of 553.34 m (1,815 ft). Excavation for the erection of the 130,000-tonne (128,000-ton) reinforced, post-tensioned concrete structure began on 12 Feb 1973, and it was finally 'topped out' on 2 April 1975. A 416-seat restaurant revolves in the tower's Sky Pod at 351 m (1,151 ft), giving diners views of hills up to 120 km (75 miles) away.

TALLEST OFFICE BUILDINGS
Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, became the world's tallest office building in March 1996, when 73.5-m-tall (241-ft) stainless steel pinnacles were placed on top of the 88-storey towers, bringing their height to 451.9 m (1,482 ft).

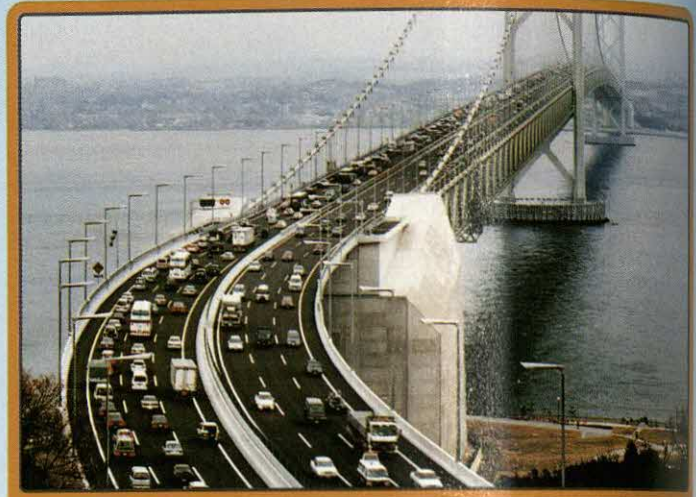
The Universal Financial Centre in the new Pudong business district of Shanghai, China, will be taller than Petronas Towers when it is completed in 2001. It will be 454 m (1,490 ft) high, with 95 storeys of offices and hotel accommodation above ground and three storeys below ground.

TALLEST BLOCKS OF FLATS
The John Hancock Center in Chicago, Illinois, USA, is 343.5 m (1,127 ft) high. Of its 100 storeys, only floors 44–92 are residential.

The tallest purely residential block of flats is the 70-storey Lake Point Tower in Chicago, Illinois, USA, which is 195 m (640 ft) high and contains a total of 879 apartments.

BIGGEST PALACES
The Imperial Palace, located in the centre of Beijing, China, covers an area of 72 ha (178 acres). The outline of the palace survives from the reign of the third Ming Emperor, Yongle (1402–24), but owing to constant reconstruction work most of the intra-mural buildings (five halls and 17 palaces) date from the 18th century.

The biggest residential palace in the world is Istana Nurul Iman in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, which is owned by the Sultan of Brunei. Completed in Jan 1984 at a reported cost of $422 million (£300 million), it has 1,788 rooms, 257 lavatories and enough garage space to accommodate the Sultan's 153 cars.



⊙ LONGEST CABLE SUSPENSION BRIDGE
The Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge, which joins the islands of Honshu and Awaji, Japan, has a main span of 1,991 m (6,532 ft). The bridge was opened to traffic in April 1998.

MOST EXPENSIVE HOUSE
The most expensive house ever built was the Hearst Ranch at San Simeon, California, USA, which was put up for William Randolph Hearst between 1922 and 1939 at a total cost of more than $30 million (£6.5 million) - the equivalent today of $277 million (£167 million). The house has more than 100 rooms, a 32-m-long (105-ft) heated swimming pool and a garage with room for 25 limousines.

⊙ BIGGEST SQUARE
Tiananmen Square, the 'Gate of Heavenly Peace', in Beijing, China, covers an area of 39.6 ha (98 acres). Built in the early 20th century, it was the site of Mao Zedong's proclamation of the People's Republic in 1949, and the massacre of pro-democracy protestors 40 years later.

OLDEST HOTEL
The Hoshi Ryokan in the village of Awazu, Japan, dates back to the year 717 AD, when Garyo Hoshi built an inn near a hot water spring that was said to have miraculous healing powers. The water is still celebrated for its recuperative effects, and the hotel now has 100 bedrooms.

BIGGEST HOTEL
The MGM Grand Hotel/Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, consists of four 30-storey towers on a site covering 45.3 ha (112 acres). The hotel has 5,005 rooms, a 15,200-seat arena and a 13.3-ha (33-acre) theme park.

BIGGEST OFFICE
The World Trade Center in New York City, USA, has a total of 1.115 million m² (12 million ft²) of rentable space available in its seven buildings, including 406,000 m² (4.37 million ft²) in each of the twin towers. Around 50,000 people work in some 500 companies and organizations located in the complex, and a further 70,000 tourists and business people visit it every day.

TALLEST STRUCTURES
The tallest structure ever built was the guyed Warszawa Radio mast at Konstantynow, Poland, which was 646.38 m (2,120 ft) tall prior to its collapse during renovation work on 10 Aug 1991. The mast, which weighs 550 tonnes (541 tons), was completed on 18 July 1974 and put into operation on 22 July 1974. Since 1991 it has been described as 'the world's longest tower'.

The tallest structure currently standing is a 629-m (2,064-ft) stayed television transmitting tower located between Fargo and Blanchard, North Dakota, USA. The tower was built for Channel 11 of KTHI-TV in 30 days (2 Oct to 1 Nov 1963) by Hamilton Erection, Inc of York, South Carolina, USA. It remained the tallest structure in the world until the completion of the mast at Konstantynow.

BIGGEST MUD BUILDING
The Grand Mosque Degne in Mali is the largest mud building in the world. Built in 1905 to the design of an 11th-century mosque, it is 100 m (328 ft) long and 40 m (131 ft) wide.

BIGGEST IGLOO
The Ice Hotel in Jukkasjärvi, Sweden, has a total floor area of 3,000 m² (32,292 ft²) and can sleep up to 150 guests per night.

BIGGEST PYRAMID
The largest pyramid is the Quetzalcóatl Pyramid at Cholula de Rivadavia, 101 km (63 miles) southeast of Mexico City, Mexico. It stands 54 m (177 ft) tall, with a base that covers an area of nearly 18.2 ha (45 acres). Its total volume has been estimated at 3.3 million m³ (4.3 million yd³).

→ TALLEST HOTEL
The sail-shaped Burj Al Arab or Arabian Tower in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is the tallest hotel in the world, measuring 321 m (1,053 ft) from ground level to the top of its mast. Built on a man-made island, it boasts 202 suites and a total floor area of 111,480 m² (1.2 million ft²). Approximately 3,500 designers, engineers and building workers were involved in its construction.

Buildings & Structures 2

BIGGEST DOME
The world's largest dome is the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, completed in May 1975. It is 83.2 m (273 ft) tall, has a diameter of 207.3 m (680 ft) and can seat 97,365 people for conventions and 76,791 for American football games.

TALLEST SCAFFOLDING
The world's tallest scaffolding was erected around the New York City Municipal Building, USA, by Regional Scaffolding & Hoisting Co Inc in 1988. In place until 1992, the scaffolding was 198 m (650 ft) high with a volume of 135,900 m³ (4,800,000 ft³).

TALLEST TOTEM POLE
The world's tallest totem pole is the 54.94-m (180.2 ft) Spirit of Lekwammen, which was erected in Aug 1994 at Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Developed by Richard Krentz (Canada), it took nine months to carve. It was partially dismantled in Aug 1997, but its base section, which is approximately 15 m (49 ft) in height, remains at the site.

LONGEST WALL
The Great Wall of China runs 3,460 km (2,150 miles) between Shanhaiguan on the Gulf of Bohai and Yumenguan, with an additional 3,530 km (2,194 miles) of branches and spurs. Construction of the wall began during the reign of Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi (221–210 BC).

BIGGEST WINDOWS
Three matching arch-shaped windows in the Palace of Industry and Technology, Paris, France, each have an extreme width of 218 m (715 ft) and a maximum height of 50 m (164 ft).

THICKEST WALLS
The city walls of Ur-nammu at Ur (now Muqayyar, Iraq) were 27 m (89 ft) thick. They were destroyed by the Elamites in 2006 BC.

⊙ LONGEST ESCALATOR RIDE
The world's longest escalator ride can be had on the four-section outdoor escalator at Ocean Park, Hong Kong. The escalator has an overall length of 227 m (745 ft) and a total vertical rise of 115 m (377 ft).

HEAVIEST DOOR
The radiation shield door in the National Institute for Fusion Science at Toki, Japan, weighs 720 tonnes (708.6 tons). It is 11.73 m (38.5 ft) high, 11.4 m (37.4 ft) wide and 2 m (6.6 ft) thick. The door was installed in Dec 1994 by Itoki Co Ltd.

LONGEST TUNNEL
The longest tunnel of any kind is the New York City–West Delaware water supply tunnel, which runs for 169 km (105 miles) from the Rondout reservoir into the Hillview reservoir in Yonkers, New York City, USA. Built between 1937 and 1944, it has a diameter of 4.1 m (13.5 ft).

LONGEST STAIRWAY
The service stairway for the Niesenbahn funicular railway near Spiez, Switzerland, climbs a height of 1,669 m (5,476 ft) with 11,674 steps.

LONGEST SPIRAL STAIRCASE
A spiral staircase in the Mapco–White County Coal Mine, Carmi, Illinois, USA, is a record 336 m (1,102 ft) deep with 1,520 steps.

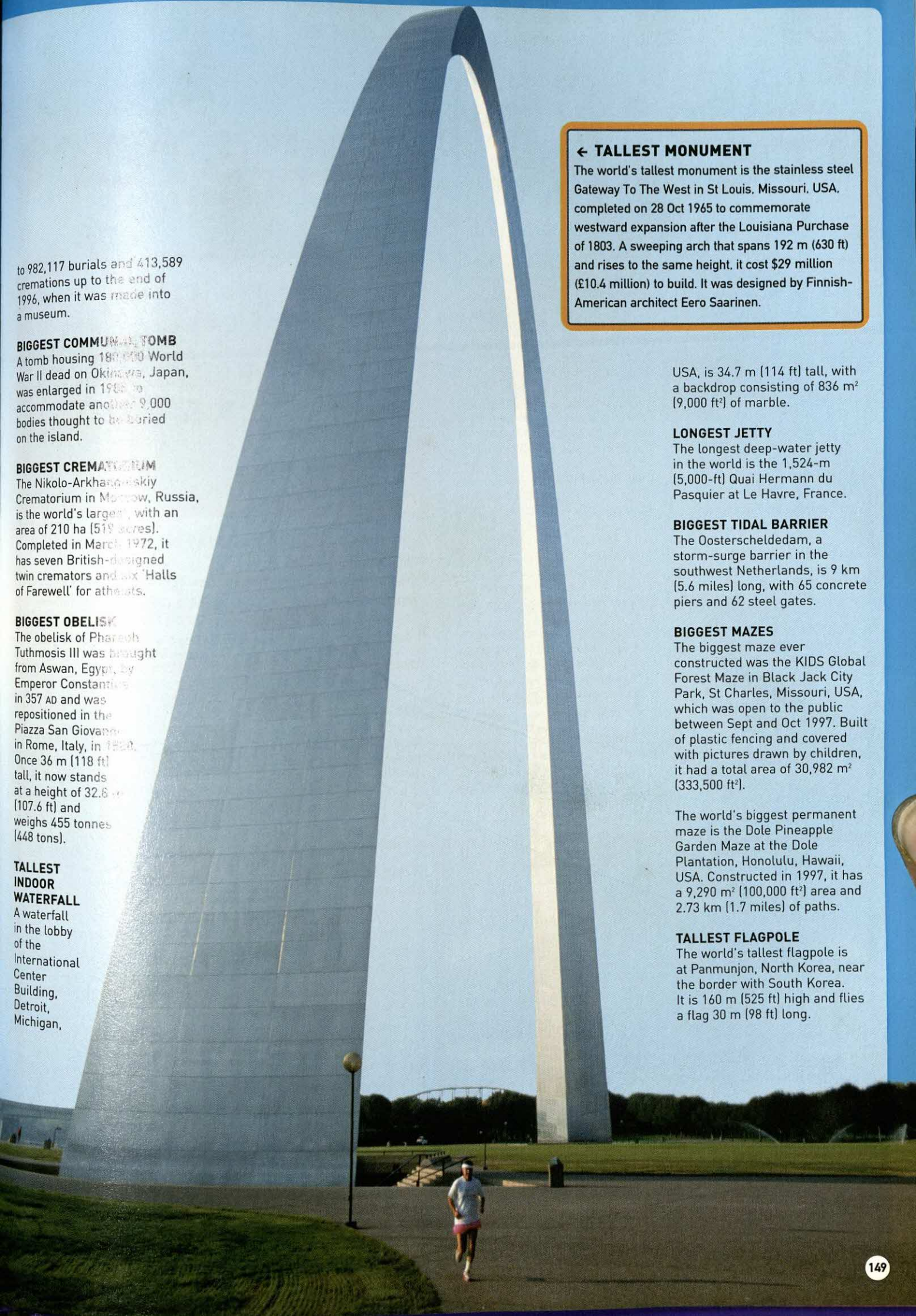
SHORTEST ESCALATOR
The moving walkway at Okadaya More's Shopping Mall, Kawasaki, Japan, has a vertical rise of just 83.4 cm (32.8 in).

TALLEST FOUNTAIN
'The Fountain', located in a lake in Fountain Hills, Arizona, USA, emits a column of water with a record-breaking height of 171.3 m (562 ft) when operating at full pressure.

TALLEST CEMETERY
The permanently-illuminated Memorial Necrópole Ecumênica in Santos, Brazil, is 10 storeys high and covers an area of 1.8 ha (4.4 acres). Construction started in March 1983 and the first burial took place in July 1984.

⊙ TALLEST LIGHTHOUSE
The world's tallest lighthouse is the steel Marine Tower, located at Yamashita Park in Yokohama, Japan. It has a height of 106 m (348 ft), power of 600,000 candelas and a visibility range of 32 km (20 miles).

BIGGEST CEMETERY
The world's biggest cemetery is Ohlsdorf Cemetery in Hamburg, Germany, which covers an area of 400 ha (988 acres). In use since 1877, it had been host



to 982,117 burials and 413,589 cremations up to the end of 1996, when it was made into a museum.

BIGGEST COMMUNAL TOMB
A tomb housing 189,930 World War II dead on Okinawa, Japan, was enlarged in 1986 to accommodate another 9,000 bodies thought to be buried on the island.

BIGGEST CREMATORIUM
The Nikolo-Arkhangelskiy Crematorium in Moscow, Russia, is the world's largest, with an area of 210 ha (519 acres). Completed in March 1972, it has seven British-designed twin cremators and six 'Halls of Farewell' for atheists.

BIGGEST OBELISK
The obelisk of Pharaoh Tuthmosis III was brought from Aswan, Egypt, by Emperor Constantius in 357 AD and was repositioned in the Piazza San Giovanni in Rome, Italy, in 1588. Once 36 m (118 ft) tall, it now stands at a height of 32.8 m (107.6 ft) and weighs 455 tonnes (448 tons).

TALLEST INDOOR WATERFALL
A waterfall in the lobby of the International Center Building, Detroit, Michigan, USA, is 34.7 m (114 ft) tall, with a backdrop consisting of 836 m² (9,000 ft²) of marble.

← TALLEST MONUMENT
The world's tallest monument is the stainless steel Gateway To The West in St Louis, Missouri, USA, completed on 28 Oct 1965 to commemorate westward expansion after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. A sweeping arch that spans 192 m (630 ft) and rises to the same height, it cost $29 million (£10.4 million) to build. It was designed by Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen.

LONGEST JETTY
The longest deep-water jetty in the world is the 1,524-m (5,000-ft) Quai Hermann du Pasquier at Le Havre, France.

BIGGEST TIDAL BARRIER
The Oosterscheldedam, a storm-surge barrier in the southwest Netherlands, is 9 km (5.6 miles) long, with 65 concrete piers and 62 steel gates.

BIGGEST MAZES
The biggest maze ever constructed was the KIDS Global Forest Maze in Black Jack City Park, St Charles, Missouri, USA, which was open to the public between Sept and Oct 1997. Built of plastic fencing and covered with pictures drawn by children, it had a total area of 30,982 m² (333,500 ft²).

The world's biggest permanent maze is the Dole Pineapple Garden Maze at the Dole Plantation, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. Constructed in 1997, it has a 9,290 m² (100,000 ft²) area and 2.73 km (1.7 miles) of paths.

TALLEST FLAGPOLE
The world's tallest flagpole is at Panmunjon, North Korea, near the border with South Korea. It is 160 m (525 ft) high and flies a flag 30 m (98 ft) long.

Travel & Transport

LONGEST TRAIN ROUTE
The world's longest train journey (without changing tracks) is the 10,214-km (6,347-mile) Trans-Siberian trip between Moscow and Vladivostok, Russia. It is scheduled to take 7 days 20 hours 25 minutes.

LONGEST BUS ROUTE
The world's longest regularly scheduled bus trip is operated by Expreso Internacional Ormeño SA of Lima, Peru, and covers the 9,660 km (6,003 miles) between Caracas, Venezuela, and Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 214 hours. The journey includes a 12-hour stop in Santiago, Chile, and a 24-hour stop in Lima, Peru.

LONGEST TRAM ROUTE
The world's longest tram journey, from Krefeld St Tönis to Witten Annen Nord, Germany, is 105.5 km (65.5 miles) long. With luck at the eight inter-connections, the trip can be completed in five and a half hours.

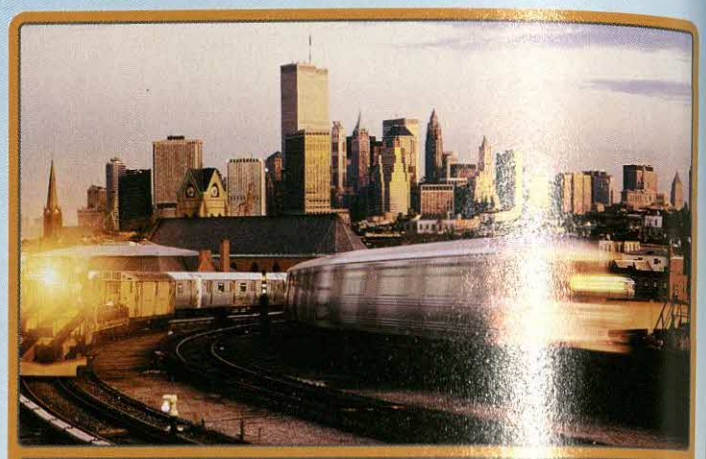
LONGEST MOTORABLE ROAD
The Pan-American Highway, which runs from Fairbanks, Alaska, USA, to Brasilia, Brazil, is over 24,000 km (15,000 miles) in length. There is, however, a small incomplete section in Panama and Colombia known as the Darién Gap.

LONGEST RING ROAD
The M25 orbital motorway around London, UK, is 195.5 km (121.5 miles) long. Work on the six-lane ring road (nicknamed 'The Road To Hell') began in 1972, and was completed on 29 Oct 1986 at an estimated cost of £909 million ($1.32 billion).

HIGHEST ROADS
The highest motorable road in the world is in Khardungla Pass, Kashmir, at an altitude of 5,682 m (18,641 ft). It was completed in 1976 by the Border Roads Organization, New Delhi, India, and has been open to motor vehicles since 1988.

A military road which is closed to foreign traffic runs at an altitude of 5,860 m (19,225 ft) above the Changlung Valley, Askai, China (administered by China but claimed by India).

LOWEST ROAD
The world's lowest road runs along the Israeli shores of the Dead Sea at an altitude of 393 m (1,289 ft) below sea level.



⊙ UNDERGROUND RAILWAY SYSTEM WITH MOST STATIONS
The MTA New York City Transit in New York City, USA, has 468 stations in a network that covers 370 km (230 miles). The railway, the first section of which opened on 27 Oct 1904, serves an estimated 5.1 million passengers per day, or 1.86 billion per year.

BIGGEST PORT
The Port of New York and New Jersey, USA, is the world's largest, with a navigable waterfront of 1,215 km (755 miles) and berthing capacity for 391 ships at any one time. It has 261 general cargo berths, 130 other piers and a total of 170.9 ha (422 acres) of warehouse space.

BUSIEST PORTS
The world's busiest port is Rotterdam, Netherlands, which covers an area of 100 km² (39 miles²) and handled 315.5 million tonnes (310.5 million tons) of sea-going cargo in 1998.

The world's busiest container port is Hong Kong, China, which handled 14.6 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) in 1998.

BIGGEST RAILWAY STATION
The world's largest railway station is Beijing West Railway Station, Beijing, China. Built between April 1995 and June 1997, it covers an area of 53.8 ha (132.9 acres).

BUSIEST RAILWAY SYSTEM
In 1998 trains operated by the East Japan Railway Co made an average of 12,305 journeys per

⊙ BIGGEST AIRPORT TERMINAL
The world's largest airport terminal is the Hong Kong International Airport Passenger Terminal Building, which is 1.3 km (1,422 yd) long and covers an area of 55 ha (136 acres). Opened in July 1998, it has 48 aircraft parking stands, 2.8 km (1.7 miles) of moving walkways, 5,500 doors, 80,000 light fittings and approximately 11.7 ha (28.9 acres) of carpeting.

day over a network of 7,538 km (4,684 miles). An estimated 16.4 million passengers used the railway every weekday.

HIGHEST RAILWAY STATION
Cóndor station on the Rio Mulatos to Potosí line, Bolivia, is the world's highest, at an altitude of 4,786 m (15,700 ft).

⊙ LONGEST CABLE CAR ROUTE
The longest passenger-carrying cable car route is the Teleférico Mérida, which runs from Mérida City, Venezuela, (altitude 1,639.5 m or 5,379 ft) to Pico Espejo (altitude 4,763.7 m or 15,629 ft). Passengers change cars three times on the 12.8-km (8-mile) ascent.

LONGEST RAIL NETWORK
The USA has the world's longest rail network, with 240,000 km (149,133 miles) of track.

LONGEST TRAFFIC JAMS
The longest ever traffic jam occurred on 16 Feb 1980. It stretched 176 km (109 miles) northwards from Lyon towards Paris, France.

A traffic jam of 18 million cars was reported crawling bumper-to-bumper over the East–West German border on 12 April 1990.

MOST VISITED COUNTRY
According to the World Tourism Organization, France receives more foreign tourists than any other country, with 70 million in 1998.

HIGHEST-SPENDING TOURISTS
The world's highest-spending tourists are those from the USA, who spent $51.22 billion (£30.9 billion) abroad in 1997.

GREATEST INCOME FROM TOURISM
The USA receives more income from tourism than any other country, with $71.1 billion (£42.9 billion) spent there in 1998.

BIGGEST TRAVEL AGENCY
In terms of branches and staff numbers, the world's largest travel agency is the Japan Travel Bureau. Established in 1912, JTB currently has 13,300 employees, 315 domestic branches and 69 overseas branches.

LONGEST FOOTPATH
The longest designated footpath in the world is the 3,473-km-long (2,158-mile) Appalachian National Scenic Trail in the eastern USA. The trail stretches from Katahdin in central Maine to Springer Mountain in north Georgia.

LONGEST ROAD TUNNEL
The two-lane St Gotthard road tunnel, which runs from Göschenen to Airolo, Switzerland, is 16.32 km (10.1 miles) long and was opened to traffic on 5 Sept 1980. A total of 19 workers lost their lives during its construction, which began in 1969 and cost $420 million (£175 million).

LONGEST CANAL
The Belomorsko-Baltiyskiy Canal, which runs from Belomorsk to Povenets, Russia, is 227 km (141 miles) long and has 19 locks. It was completed in 1933 with the use of forced labour.

BUSIEST AIRPORT
A total of 73,474 million international and domestic passengers embarked or disembarked at Hartsfield International Airport, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, in 1998.

↑ BUSIEST INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE
In 1998 British Airways flew a total of 108.773 billion international passenger km (67.59 billion miles). United Airlines were second with 75.153 billion (46.700 billion miles) and Lufthansa third with 69.853 billion (43.400 billion miles).

BUSIEST INTERCONTINENTAL AIR ROUTE
The busiest intercontinental air route in the world is London, UK, to New York City, USA. More than 3.3 million passengers fly the 5,539 km (3,442 miles) between the two cities annually.

MOST EXTENSIVE TRAMWAY SYSTEM
St Petersburg, Russia, has the most extensive tramway system in the world. A total of 2,402 cars run on 64 different routes over 690.6 km (429 miles) of track.

LONGEST MONORAIL
The Osaka Monorail, Japan, runs between Osaka International Airport and Hankyu Railway station, with a second stage running between Hankyu and Keihan Railway Kadomashi station. Opened in Aug 1997, it has a total operational length of 22.2 km (14 miles).

Science 1

MOST COMMON ELEMENTS
The most common element in existence is hydrogen, which makes up over 90% of the Universe and 70.68% of the Solar System.

On Earth, the most common elements are iron, which accounts for 36% of the Earth's mass, and molecular nitrogen (N_2), which makes up 78.08% of the Earth's atmosphere by volume, or 75.52% by mass.

NEWEST AND HEAVIEST ELEMENT
In Jan 1999 a team of scientists based at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, California, USA, and the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia, announced the creation of element 114. Ununquadium, as it has been called provisionally, is the newest and heaviest element in the world. Resulting from the bombardment of a neutron-enriched plutonium isotope by a calcium isotope, it contains 114 protons, and is claimed to be much more stable than other super-heavy atoms. However, scientists have yet to discover element 113.

SOFTEST MINERAL
Talc is the softest mineral on Earth, with a value of 1.00 on the Mohs' scale, the standard scale used for measuring the hardness of materials. It is so soft that it can be scratched very easily by a fingernail.

SWEETEST SUBSTANCE
Thaumatin, a protein extracted from the fleshy arils that cover the seeds of the katemfe plant (*Thaumatococcus daniellii*), is 6,150 times sweeter than sucrose (table sugar). The plant is found in parts of west Africa.

MOST BITTER SUBSTANCES
The world's most bitter-tasting substances are based on the denatonium cation and are produced commercially as benzoate and saccharide. A dilution made from one part in 500 million can be detected, and one part in 100 million will leave a lingering taste.

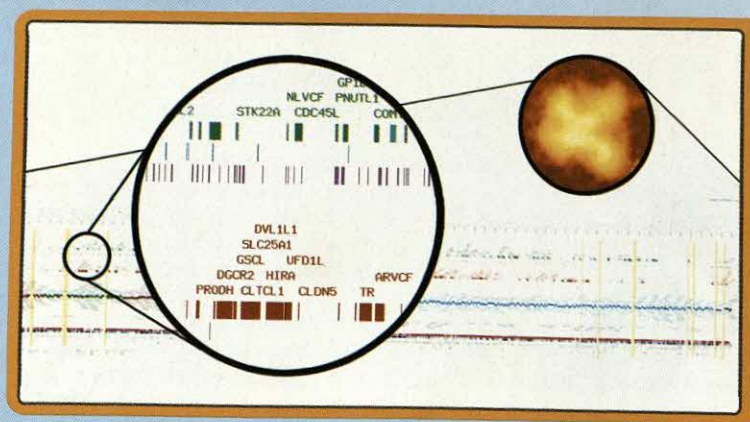
MOST TOXIC SUBSTANCES
The most toxic substance on Earth is the radioactive element thorium 228 (Th 228, or radiothorium). Just 2.4 x 10^{-16} g per m^3 of air (1.1 x 10^{-17} oz/yd^3) is enough to kill a person.

The most toxic non-radioactive element is beryllium (Be), which is lethal to humans at a concentration of 2 x 10^{-6} g per m^3 (9 x 10^{-8}oz/yd^3).

The most toxic man-made substance is the compound 2, 3, 7, 8-tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin, or TCDD. Environmental concentrations of TCDD above 50 parts per trillion (ppt) are said to be hazardous to health.

SMELLIEST SUBSTANCES
Both ethyl mercaptan (C_2H_5SH) and butyl seleno-mercaptan (C_4H_9SeH) could claim to be the most evil of the 17,000 smells classified to date. The smells have been described as a combination of garlic, onions, rotting cabbage, burnt toast and sewer gas.

⊙ HARDEST ELEMENT
Diamond, an allotrope of carbon (C), has a value of 15.00 on the Mohs scale (see 'Softest Mineral').



⊙ LONGEST GENETIC SEQUENCE DETERMINED
On 1 Dec 1999 researchers from the Sanger Centre near Cambridge, UK, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan, the University of Oklahoma, Norman, USA, and Washington University, St Louis, Missouri, USA, announced that they had succeeded in deciphering 97% of the long arm of chromosome 22 (22q). There are 23 pairs of chromosomes in the human genome: 22, the second smallest of these, carries genes linked to congenital heart disease, schizophrenia, learning disabilities, the workings of the immune system and several cancers.

⊙ BIGGEST BACTERIUM

The bacterium *Thiomargarita namibiensis* (sulphur pearl of Namibia) is the largest prokaryotic organism yet known to science. Visible to the naked eye, it can reach a width of 0.75 mm (0.029 in). The species was discovered in sediments off the Namibian coast by biologist Heide Schulz from the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology in Bremen, Germany, during a research trip made on the Russian vessel *Petr Kottsov* in 1997.

MOST POWERFUL NERVE GAS

Ethyl S-2-diisopropylamino-ethylmethylphosphonothiolate, or VX, is 300 times more powerful than the nerve gas $COCl_2$ used in World War I. Developed at the Chemical Defence Experimental Establishment at Porton Down, Wilts, UK, in 1952, it is so deadly that 0.3 mg (0.0001 oz) taken orally will prove lethal.

DEADLIEST BACTERIAL TOXIN

The anaerobic bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*, which causes botulism, is so deadly that 28 g (1 oz) could kill 30.5 million tonnes (30 million tons) of living matter, while 450 g (1 lb) could kill the entire human population. The bacterium is mainly found in improperly canned meat and grows only in the complete absence of oxygen.

STRONGEST ACID

A 50% solution of antimony pentafluoride in hydrofluoric acid (fluoro-antimonic acid $HF:SbF_5$) is 1,018 times stronger than concentrated sulphuric acid.

BIGGEST PROTEIN

A molecule of titin, or connectin, which is found in muscle cells, can be up to one micron long (0.001 mm or 0.00004 in), bigger than some cells. The protein contains 30,000 amino acids.

BIGGEST MICROBES

The biggest known microbes are the extinct calcareous foraminifera (*Foraminiferida*) of the genus *Nummulites*. Specimens up to 15 cm (6 in) wide have been found in the Middle Eocene rocks of Turkey.

⊙ BIGGEST CLONED ANIMAL

Xiangzhong Yang of the University of Connecticut, USA, and scientists from the Kagoshima Prefectural Cattle Breeding Development Institute, Kyushu, Japan, announced on 6 Jan 2000 that they had successfully cloned six calves from skin cells taken from a bull's ear. Grown in a laboratory for the first three months, the cells were specially cultured so that scientists were able to make alterations to their DNA. Four of the calves, two of which died, were born in Dec 1998, and the other two were born in Feb 1999.

Science 2

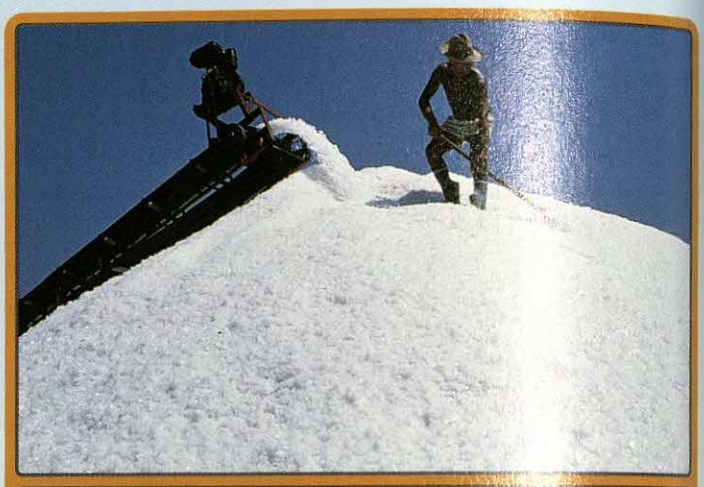
HIGHEST TEMPERATURE
The highest man-made temperature on record is 510 million°C (950 million°F) - 30 times hotter than the centre of the Sun. It was created on 27 May 1994 at the Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, New Jersey, USA, using a deuterium–tritium plasma mix.

LOWEST TEMPERATURE
The world's lowest ever temperature was created at the University of Sussex, UK, on 22 Sept 1998 by a team led by Dr Malcolm Boshier. For approximately one second, 100,000 rubidium atoms were cooled to a few hundred billionths of a degree above the coldest temperature possible – absolute zero or –273.15°C (–459.67°F).

MOST POWERFUL ELECTRIC CURRENT
The largest ever electrical current was achieved by scientists at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, USA, in April 1996. They sent a current of 2 million amperes/cm² down a superconducting wire. By contrast, household wires carry a current of less than 1,000 amperes/cm².

SMALLEST ARTEFACT
The tips of probes on scanning tunnelling microscopes (STMs) have been shaped to end in a single atom – the last three layers form the world's smallest human-made pyramid, of seven, three and one atoms. In Jan 1990 it was announced that scientists at the IBM Almaden Research Center, San José, California, USA, had used an STM to move and reposition single atoms of xenon on a nickel surface in order to spell out the initials 'IBM'. Other laboratories have used similar techniques on single atoms of other elements.

SMALLEST TRANSISTOR
On 15 Nov 1999 Lucent Technologies of Murray Hill, New Jersey, USA, announced the development of a transistor with a length of just 50 nanometres, making it roughly 2,000 times shorter than the width of a human hair. The component is known as a 'vertical' transistor because all its components are built on top of a silicon wafer and its current flows vertically.



⊙ MOST EXTRACTED COMPOUND
In 1998 a total of 168 million tonnes (165 million tons) of sodium chloride (salt) was extracted, mostly for culinary use. Here, workers harvest salt at Trapani, Sicily, Italy.

SMALLEST CALCULATOR
A calculator with a diameter of less than 0.000001 mm (0.00000004 in) was developed by a team of scientists led by James Gimzewski at IBM Research Division's Zürich Research Laboratory, Zürich, Switzerland, in Nov 1996. The molecular abacus consists of 10 molecules of carbon 60 that can be moved along a microscopic groove on a copper surface with the tip of a scanning tunnelling microscope.

LONGEST-STANDING MATHS PROBLEMS
The longest-standing maths problem ever was Fermat's Last Theorem, which was posed by the French mathematician Pierre de Fermat in 1630. It remained unsolved until 1995, 365 years later, when Andrew Wiles (UK) showed that $x^n+y^n=z^n$ has no solutions in integers for n being equal to or greater than 3. Wiles currently works at Princeton University, New Jersey, USA.

The longest-standing maths problem still to be solved is Goldbach's Conjecture, which was posed by Christian Goldbach in 1742. It states that every even positive integer greater than three is the sum of two (not necessarily distinct) primes, and has yet to be either proved or disproved.

⊙ MOST EXTRACTED METALLIC ELEMENT
In 1998 a total of 716 million tonnes (705 million tons) of iron was extracted. Widely used for structural and engineering purposes, iron also forms the basis of all permanent magnets and electromagnets. Here, a worker at the Man Roland factory in Henbach, Germany, pours liquid iron into a mould during the manufacture of a printing machine.

MOST ACCURATE VERSION OF PI

The most decimal places to which pi (π) has been calculated is 206,158,430,000, by Professor Yasumasa Kanada of the University of Tokyo, Japan. Professor Kanada made two separate calculations using different methods, and compared the results using computer programs written by Daisuke Takahashi. Both the main program and the verification program were run on a Hitachi SR8000/480 supercomputer, the former from 18–20 Sept 1999 and the latter from 26–27 June 1999.

HIGHEST KNOWN PRIME NUMBER

The highest known prime number is $2^{6,972,593} - 1$, which denotes two, multiplied by itself 6,972,593 times, minus one. The number, which has 2,098,960 digits, was discovered by Nayan Hajraatwala of Plymouth, Michigan, USA, on 1 June 1999.

LARGEST COMPUTATION

SETI@home, which was launched by the University of California at Berkeley, California, USA, on 17 May 1999, had made a total of 10^{20}, or 100 billion billion, computer calculations as of Dec 1999. SETI@home is a scientific experiment that harnesses the power of hundreds of thousands of internet-linked computers in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Participants download and run a free program that analyses data from radio telescopes.

FINEST BALANCE

The Sartorius Microbalance Model 4108, manufactured in Göttingen, Germany, can weigh objects of up to 0.5 g (0.018 oz) to an accuracy of 0.01µg, or 1×10^{-8} g (3.5×10^{-10} oz) – equivalent to little more than one-sixtieth of the weight of the ink on this full stop.

⊙ MOST NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS FROM ONE LABORATORY

A record 11 researchers have received Nobel prizes for work carried out while they were employed at Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey, USA. The winners include Arno Penzias (left) and Robert Wilson, who, together with Professor Piotr Kapitsa of the Academy of Sciences, Moscow, USSR (now Russia), received the 1978 Physics prize for their discovery of faint background radiation, the first direct evidence for the Big Bang theory.

Planet Earth

HIGHEST MOUNTAINS

Mount Everest, in the eastern Himalayas on the Tibet–Nepal border, has a height of 8,848 m (29,029 ft). It was officially recognized as the world's highest mountain in 1856, following surveys carried out by the Indian government. The mountain was named after Col Sir George Everest, Surveyor-General of India from 1830 to 1843.

The Andean peak of Chimborazo, which lies 158 km (98 miles) south of the equator in Ecuador, is 6,267 m (20,561 ft) high. However, since the Earth's radius in Ecuador is longer than its radius at the latitude of Mt Everest, Chimborazo's summit is actually 2,150 m (7,054 ft) further from the Earth's centre than Everest's.

Mauna Kea (White Mountain), which lies on the island of Hawaii, USA, is the world's highest marine mountain. When measured from its submarine base in the Hawaiian Trough, it has a height of 10,205 m (33,480 ft), of which a total of 4,205 m (13,796 ft) are above sea level.

BIGGEST MOUNTAIN RANGES

The largest mountain range in the world is the Mid-Ocean Ridge, which lies entirely below sea level. It extends 65,000 km (40,000 miles) from the Arctic Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean, around Africa, Asia and Australia, and under the Pacific Ocean to the west coast of North America. The range's highest point lies 4,200 m (13,800 ft) above the ocean floor.

On land, the world's biggest mountain range is the Himalaya-Karakoram, which contains 96 of the world's 109 peaks over 7,315 m (24,000 ft).

The longest mountain range in the world is the Andes of South America, with a length of approximately 7,600 km (4,700 miles).

LONGEST RIVERS

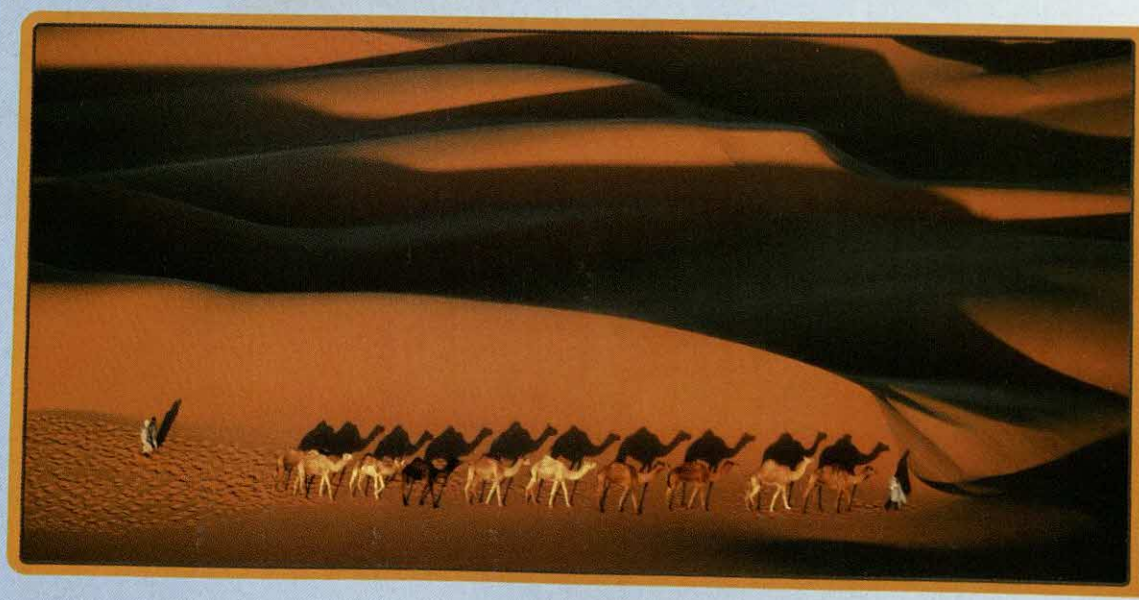
The two longest rivers in the world are the Nile and the Amazon; which is the longer is really a question of definition. The Amazon has several mouths, so the exact point at which it ends is uncertain. If the Pará estuary (the most distant mouth) is counted, then its length is approximately 6,750 km (4,190 miles). The Nile was once officially recorded as having a length of 6,670 km (4,145 miles), but has since lost a few miles of meanders due to the formation of Lake Nasser behind the Aswan High Dam.

⊙ MOST ACTIVE VOLCANO

Kilauea, on Hawaii, USA, is the world's most active volcano. It has been erupting on a continuous basis since 1983, and discharges lava at a rate of 5 m³ (177 ft³) per second.

DEEPEST LAKE

The world's deepest lake is Lake Baikal in Siberia, Russia. The deepest point of the lake, the Olkhon Crevice, has a depth of 1,637 m (5,370 ft), of which 1,181 m (3,875 ft) are below sea level.



⊙ BIGGEST DESERT

The Sahara in North Africa is the largest desert in the world, stretching to a maximum length of 5,150 km (3,200 miles) from east to west and 2,250 km (1,400 miles) from north to south. It covers an area of approximately 9,269,000 km² (3,579,000 miles²). Small areas of the desert are below sea level, but it is mainly a plateau with a central mountain system.

BIGGEST LAKE
The Caspian Sea, an inland sea which covers parts of Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran, is the world's largest lake. It is 1,225 km (760 miles) long, with an area of 371,000 km² (143,560 miles²) and an estimated volume of 89,600 km³ (21,500 miles³).

BIGGEST OCEAN
The Pacific Ocean covers an area of 166,241,000 km² (64,186,300 miles²) or 32.6% of the Earth's surface.

SMALLEST OCEAN
The world's smallest ocean is the Arctic Ocean, which has a surface area of 13,223,700 km² (5,105,700 miles²).

DEEPEST POINT IN THE OCEAN
In 1951 HM Survey Ship *Challenger* identified the Marianas Trench in the Pacific Ocean as the deepest point of all the world's oceans. The unmanned Japanese probe *Kaiko*, which descended to the bottom of the trench in 1995, recorded a depth of 10,911 m (35,797 ft).

BIGGEST ISLAND
Discounting Australia, which has an area of 7,682,300 km² (2,966,200 miles²) but is usually regarded as a continental land mass, the largest island in the world is Greenland, with an area of about 2,175,000 km² (840,000 miles²).

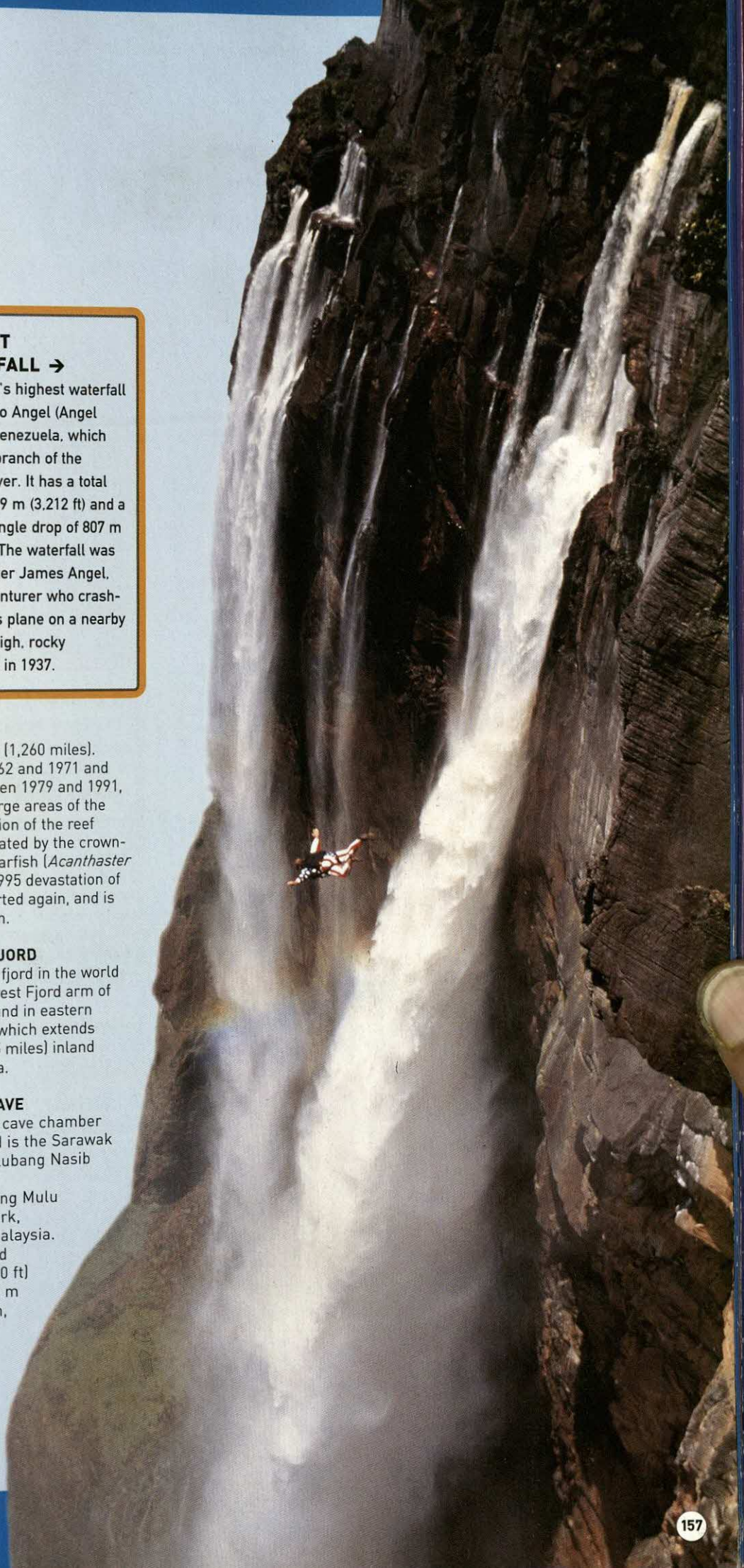
The largest sand island in the world is Fraser Island, Queensland, Australia, which has an area of 1,662 km² (642 miles²). One sand dune on the island is 120 km (75 miles) long.

LONGEST REEF
The Great Barrier Reef, situated off the coast of Queensland, Australia, stretches a total distance of 2,027 km (1,260 miles). Between 1962 and 1971 and again between 1979 and 1991, corals on large areas of the central section of the reef were devastated by the crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*). In 1995 devastation of the reef started again, and is still going on.

HIGHEST WATERFALL →
The world's highest waterfall is the Salto Angel (Angel Falls) in Venezuela, which lies on a branch of the Carrao River. It has a total drop of 979 m (3,212 ft) and a longest single drop of 807 m (2,648 ft). The waterfall was named after James Angel, a US adventurer who crash-landed his plane on a nearby mesa (a high, rocky tableland) in 1937.

LONGEST FJORD
The longest fjord in the world is the Nordvest Fjord arm of Scoresby Sund in eastern Greenland, which extends 313 km (195 miles) inland from the sea.

BIGGEST CAVE
The largest cave chamber in the world is the Sarawak Chamber (Lubang Nasib Bagus) in the Gunung Mulu National Park, Sarawak, Malaysia. It is a record 700 m (2,300 ft) long and 70 m (230 ft) high, with an average width of 300 m (985 ft).



Human Body

OLDEST PEOPLE
The oldest person for whose age there is irrefutable evidence was Jeanne Louise Calment of France. She was born on 21 Feb 1875 and died in Arles, France, on 4 Aug 1997, aged 122. Calment was the last person alive to have met the artist Vincent Van Gogh.

Shigechiyo Izumi of Isen, Japan, lived longer than any other man, reaching an authenticated age of 120 years 237 days. Born on 29 June 1865, Izumi was recorded as a six-year-old in Japan's first census of 1871. He worked until he was 105, and took up smoking when he was 70. He attributed his long life to 'God, Buddha and the Sun'. He died on 21 Feb 1986.

The oldest living man is Benjamin Harrison Holcomb, who was born on 3 July 1889 in Robinson, Kansas, USA. He has lived most of his life in Oklahoma, and with his family participated in the Cheyenne–Arapaho land run in Oklahoma Territory when he was two years old. He now lives in the Carnegie Nursing Home, Oklahoma, where three of his five children, Lucile Holcomb, 85, Leona Holcomb, 84, and John Holcomb, 80, help to care for him daily.

LIGHTEST PERSON
Lucia Xarate, a 67-cm-tall (26.4-in) midget from San Carlos, Mexico, weighed just 2.13 kg (4 lb 8 oz) at the age of 17. Her weight had increased to 5.9 kg (13 lb) by the time of her 20th birthday in 1883.

HEAVIEST PEOPLE
The heaviest person of all time was Jon Minnoch (USA). In March 1978, Minnoch, who was 185 cm (6 ft 1 in) tall, was admitted to hospital with heart failure, where his weight was calculated to be over 635 kg (100 st). After nearly two years on a diet of 1,200 calories per day, he had reduced to 216 kg (34 st), but when he died, on 10 Sept 1983, he weighed more than 362 kg (57 st).

The heaviest ever woman is Rosalie Bradford (USA), who is said to have registered a weight of 544 kg (85 st 8 lb) in 1987.

HEAVIEST TWINS
The world's heaviest twins were Billy Leon and Benny Loyd McCrary, alias McGuire, of Hendersonville, North Carolina, USA. Born on 7 Dec 1946, they were of average size until the age of six. In Nov 1978 Billy and Benny weighed 337 kg (53 st 1 lb) and 328 kg (51 st 9 lb) respectively. Billy died in July 1979.

⊙ OLDEST LIVING PERSON
The oldest living person whose date of birth can be authenticated is Eva Morris of Stone, Staffordshire, UK, who was born on 18 Nov 1885. A widow since the late 1930s, Mrs Morris attributes her long life to keeping active and drinking a daily cup of tea laced with whisky.

TALLEST WOMEN
The tallest woman for whose height there is reliable evidence was Zeng Jinlian of Yujiang village in the Bright Moon Commune, Hunan Province, China. She was 2.48 m (8 ft 1.5 in) tall when she died on 13 Feb 1982, aged 17.

Sandy Allen of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, is the tallest living woman, with a height of 2.31 m (7 ft 7 in).

SHORTEST PEOPLE
The shortest ever female was Pauline Musters, who measured 30 cm (1 ft) at the time of her birth in Ossendrecht, Netherlands, and 55 cm (1 ft 9.6 in) at the age of nine. A post mortem carried out after her death from pneumonia with meningitis at the age of 19 in New York City, USA, showed her to be 61 cm (2 ft) tall, although there was evidence of elongation of the body after death.

The shortest mature man for whose height there is independent evidence was Gul Mohammed of New Delhi, India. When examined at Ram Manohar Hospital, New Delhi, in 1990, he was found to be just 57 cm (1 ft 10.5 in) tall. He died of a heart attack in 1997.

⊙ LONGEST FINGERNAILS
The world's longest fingernails are those of Shridhar Chillal of Poona, India. On 8 July 1998 the nails on his left hand were measured on the television show *Guinness World Records: Primetime* and found to have a total length of 6.15 m (20 ft 2.25 in). He does not grow the nails on his right hand.

SHORTEST TWINS
The shortest twins on record were Matyus and Béla Matina of Hungary (later the USA), who were both 76 cm (2 ft 6 in) tall.

The shortest living twins are John and Greg Rice of West Palm Beach, Florida, USA. Both measure 86.3 cm (2 ft 10 in).

LONGEST BEARD
Hans Langseth had a record-breaking 5.33-m-long (17-ft 6-in) beard at the time of his burial in Kensett, Iowa, USA, in 1927.

LONGEST BEARDS ON WOMEN
Janice Deveree (USA) had a 36-cm-long (14-in) beard in 1884.

The living woman with the longest beard is Vivian Wheeler of Wood River, Illinois, USA. The beard's longest strand measured 20 cm (8 in) in 1999.

LONGEST MOUSTACHE
The moustache of Kalyan Ramji Sain of Sundargarth, India, grown since 1976, reached a span of 3.39 m (133.4 in) – right side 1.72 m (67.7 in) and left side 1.67 m (65.7 in) – in July 1993.

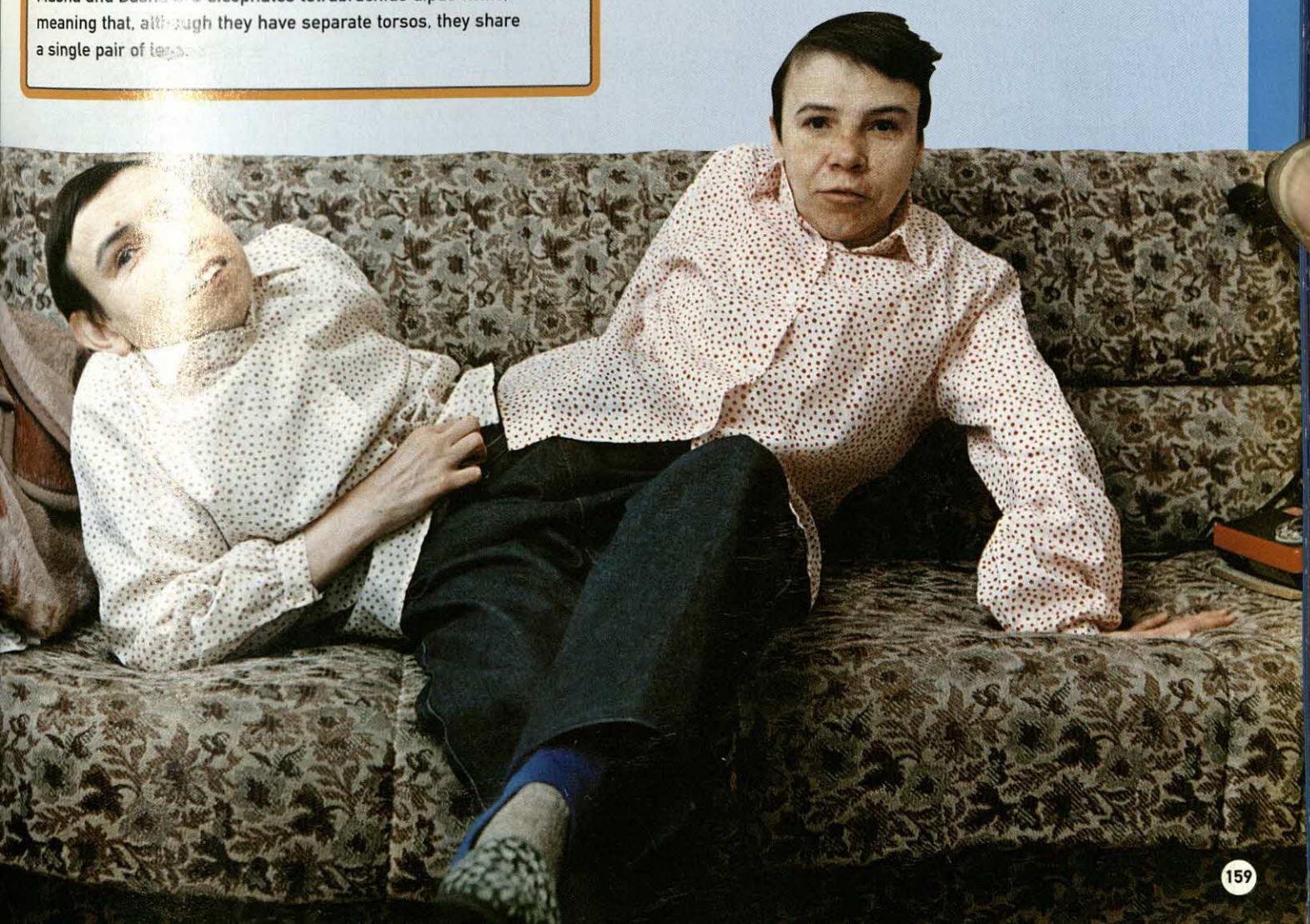
BIGGEST FEET
Excluding cases of elephantiasis, the biggest feet currently known are those of Matthew McGrory of Pennsylvania, USA, who wears US size 28.5 (UK size 28) shoes.

LONGEST TOENAILS
The toenails of Louise Hollis of Compton, California, USA, reached a combined length of 2.2 m (7 ft 3 in) in 1991. Today, each is approximately 15 cm (6 in) long.

SMALLEST WAIST
The smallest waist of a person of normal height was 33 cm (13 in), for Ethel Granger (UK). She reduced to this measurement from a natural 56 cm (22 in) between 1929 and 1939.

⊙ TALLEST MEN
The tallest man in medical history was Robert Wadlow (above) from Alton, Illinois, USA. When measured in June 1940, shortly before his death, he was 2.72 m (8 ft 11.1 in) tall. The tallest living man is Radhouane Charbib (Tunisia), who measures 2.34 m (7 ft 8.9 in).

↓ OLDEST SIAMESE TWINS
The oldest living Siamese twins are Masha and Dasha Krivoshlyapovy of Moscow, Russia, who were born on 4 Jan 1950. Masha and Dasha are dicephales tetrabrachius dipus twins, meaning that, although they have separate torsos, they share a single pair of legs.



Animal World 1

BIGGEST ANIMAL
The biggest animal on Earth is the blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*), the largest specimen of which, caught in 1947, weighed in at a record 190 tonnes (187 tons). Newborn calves are 6–8 m (20–26 ft) long and weigh up to 3 tonnes (2.9 tons), growing on average to 26 tonnes (25.6 tons) by the age of 12 months.

BIGGEST LAND MAMMAL
The male African bush elephant (*Loxodonta africana africana*) is the biggest of the land mammals. The largest specimen on record is a male shot in Mucusso, Angola, on 7 Nov 1974. This elephant had an estimated standing height of 3.96 m (13 ft) and is thought to have weighed 12.2 tonnes (12 tons).

TALLEST MAMMAL
The world's tallest mammal is the giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*), which is found in the dry savannah and open woodland areas of sub-Saharan Africa. The tallest giraffe on record was a Masai bull (*Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi*) named George, who arrived at Chester Zoo, UK, from Kenya in Jan 1959. Standing 5.8 m (19 ft) tall, his 'horns' almost grazed the roof of the 6.1-m-high (20-ft) giraffe house by the time he was nine years old.

SMALLEST MAMMAL
The smallest mammal in the world is the bumblebee or Kitti's hog-nosed bat (*Craseonycteris thonglongyai*), which is confined to about 21 limestone caves on the Kwae Noi River, Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand. As its name suggests, its body is no bigger than that of a large bumblebee, with a head-and-body length of 2.9–3.3 cm (1.1–1.3 in) and a wingspan of 13–14.5 cm (5.1– 5.7 in). It weighs 1.7–2 g (0.06–0.07 oz).

SLOWEST MAMMAL
The three-toed sloth of tropical South America (*Bradypus tridactylus*) has an average ground speed of 1.8–2.4 m (6–8 ft) per minute, or 0.1–0.16 km/h (0.06–0.1 mph). In the trees it can accelerate to 4.6 m (15 ft) per minute, or 0.27 km/h (0.17 mph).

FASTEST LAND MAMMALS
Over short distances (up to 550 m or 1,800 ft), the fastest land mammal is the cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), which has a possible maximum speed of 100 km/h (62 mph). In Feb 1999 the cheetah Nyana-Spier, kept at Cheetah Outreach (founded by Annie Beckhelling of Cape Town, South Africa) was officially timed on a track. It ran 100 m (109 yd) in 6.08 sec, with an acceleration of 0 to 80 km/h (0 to 50 mph) in 3.6 sec and an average speed of 59.5 km/h (37 mph).

The pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) of the western United States, southwestern Canada and parts of northern Mexico is the fastest land animal over long distances. It can sustain a speed of 56 km/h (35 mph) for 5 km (4 miles), 67 km/h (42 mph) for 1.6 km (1 mile) and 88.5 km/h (55 mph) for 0.8 km (0.5 mile).

LOUDEST ANIMAL SOUNDS
The low-frequency pulses emitted by blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*) and fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*) when they communicate with each other have been measured at 188 decibels, making them the loudest sounds emitted by any living creature. By contrast, a jumbo jet taking off measures 120 decibels.

⊙ SMALLEST PRIMATE
The smallest true primate is the pygmy mouse lemur (*Microcebus myoxinus*) of western Madagascar. It has a head-and-body length of about 6.2 cm (2.4 in), a tail length of 13.6 cm (5.4 in) and an average weight of 30.6 g (1.08 oz).

⊙ HEAVIEST DOGS
Kell (left), an English mastiff bitch owned by Tom Scott of East Leake, Leics, UK, is the heaviest living dog, with a weight of 130 kg (286 lb) on 18 Aug 1999. The heaviest dog on record was Aicama Zorba of La-Susa, an Old English mastiff owned by Chris Eraclides of London, UK. 'Zorba' weighed in at 155.58 kg (343 lb) at his heaviest, in Nov 1989.

The noisiest land animals in the world are the howler monkeys (*Alouatta*) of Central and South America. Their calls, described as a cross between a dog's bark and a donkey's bray, only a thousand times louder, can be heard clearly up to 5 km (3 miles) away.

MOST DISCRIMINATING MAMMALIAN EATER
The koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) of eastern Australia feeds almost exclusively on eucalyptus leaves. It browses regularly on just six of the 500 species and selects certain individual trees and leaves in preference to others, sometimes sifting through up to 9 kg (20 lb) of leaves a day to find the 0.5 kg (1.1 lb) that it needs.

⊙ BIGGEST FLYING MAMMALS
The biggest flying mammals in the world are the flying foxes (family *Pteropodidae*), particularly those living in southeast Asia. Several species have a length of 45 cm (17.7 in), a wingspan of 1.7 m (5 ft 7 in) and a weight of 1.6 kg (3.5 lb).

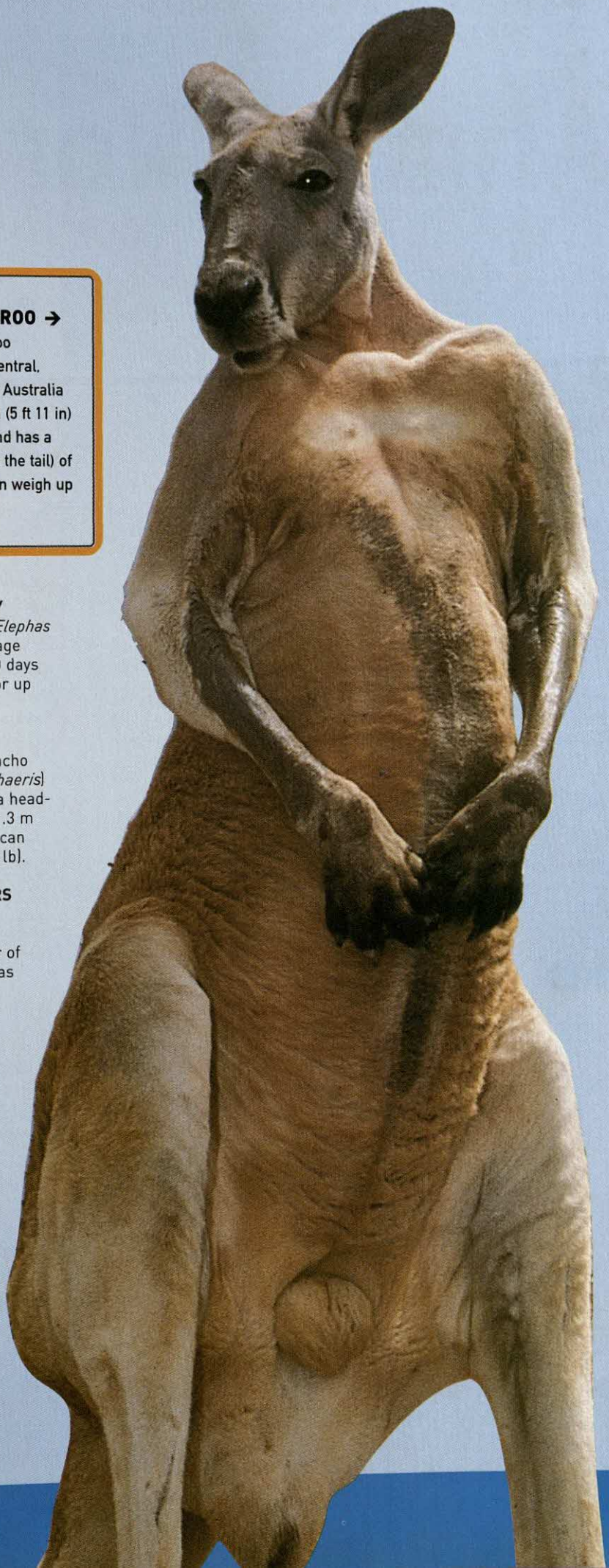
BIGGEST KANGAROO →
The male red kangaroo (*Macropus rufus*) of central, southern and eastern Australia measures up to 1.8 m (5 ft 11 in) tall when standing, and has a total length (including the tail) of 2.85 m (9 ft 4 in). It can weigh up to 90 kg (198 lb).

LONGEST PREGNANCY
The Asiatic elephant (*Elephas maximus*) has an average gestation period of 650 days and can be pregnant for up to 760 days.

BIGGEST RODENT
The capybara or carpincho (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) of South America has a head-and-body length of 1–1.3 m (3 ft 3 in–4 ft 3 in) and can weigh up to 79 kg (174 lb).

LONGEST RABBIT EARS
Toby II, a sooty-fawn English lop bred and owned by Phil Wheeler of Barnsley, Yorks, UK, has ears that are 74.3 cm (29.3 in) long and 18.7 cm (7.4 in) wide.

SMALLEST HORSE
The world's smallest horse is the miniature horse Tara Stables Hope For Tomorrow, known as Hope, owned by Kenneth and Elizabeth Garnett of Vinton, Virginia, USA. In June 1997 Hope measured 53.34 cm (21 in) from the ground to the highest point of her withers.



Animal World 2

BIGGEST BIRD
The largest living bird is the North African ostrich (*Struthio camelus camelus*). Males of this flightless sub-species can grow 2.75 m (9 ft) in height and weigh 156.5 kg (345 lb).

FASTEST BIRDS
The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) is the world's fastest living creature, reaching speeds of at least 200 km/h (124 mph) and possibly as much as 350 km/h (217 mph) when stooping from great heights during territorial displays or when catching prey birds in mid-air.

The fastest bird on land is the ostrich, which, despite its bulk, can run at speeds of up to 72 km/h (45 mph).

DEEPEST DIVE BY A BIRD
The deepest dive accurately measured for any bird is 483 m (1,585 ft), by an emperor penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) in the Ross Sea, Antarctica, in 1990.

LONGEST FLIGHT BY A BIRD
A common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) that was banded on 30 June 1996 in central Finland was recaptured alive 26,000 km (16,150 miles) away at Rotamah Island, Victoria, Australia, at the end of Jan 1997.

HIGHEST-FLYING BIRDS
The greatest height recorded for a bird is 11,300 m (37,000 ft). A Ruppell's vulture (*Gyps rueppellii*) collided with a commercial aircraft at this height over Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), on 29 Nov 1973. The impact killed the bird and damaged one of the aircraft's engines, causing it to shut down, but the plane landed safely without further incident.

On 9 Dec 1967 an airline pilot spotted about 30 whooper swans (*Cygnus cygnus*) flying over the Outer Hebrides, Highlands & Islands, UK, at an altitude of just over 8,230 m (27,000 ft). This height was also confirmed on radar by air traffic control.

MOST PROFICIENT TALKING BIRD
A number of birds are renowned for their ability to reproduce words, but the African grey parrot (*Psittacus erythacus*) excels in this respect. A female African grey parrot named Prudle, who was owned first by Lyn Logue of London, UK, and then by Iris Frost of Seaford, E Sussex, UK, won the 'Best talking parrot-like bird' title at the British National Cage and Aviary Bird Show for a record 12 consecutive years before retiring in 1976. Prudle had a vocabulary of nearly 800 words.

⊙ SMALLEST BIRD
Male bee hummingbirds (*Mellisuga helenae*), which live in Cuba and the Isle of Pines, are just 57 mm (2.2 in) long and weigh 1.6 g (0.056 oz). Females are slightly larger.

LONGEST FEATHERS
The Phoenix fowl or Yokohama chicken (a strain of the red junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*), which has been bred in Japan for ornamental purposes since the mid-17th century, has the longest feathers of any bird. In 1972 a rooster owned by Masasha Kubota of Kochi, Shikoku, Japan, was reported as having a tail covert 10.6 m (34 ft 9 in) long.

BIGGEST WINGSPAN
The wandering albatross (*Diomedea exulans*) of the southern oceans has the largest wingspan of any living bird. In 1965 an elderly male with a record-breaking wingspan of 3.63 m (11 ft 11 in) was caught in the Tasman Sea by members of the Antarctic research ship *USNS Eltanin*.

BIGGEST BIRD'S EGG
The egg of the ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) is normally 15–20 cm (6–8 in) long, 10–15 cm (4–6 in) in diameter and weighs 1–1.78 kg (2–4 lb). It is equal in

⊙ BIGGEST FISH
The world's biggest fish is the rare plankton-feeding whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), which is found in the warmer parts of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. The largest specimen on record, captured in 1949, was 12.65 m (41 ft 6 in) long, measured 7 m (23 ft) round the thickest part of the body and weighed an estimated 15–21 tonnes (14.8–20.7 tons).

volume to approximately 24 hens' eggs. Although the shell is only 1.5 mm (0.06 in) thick, it can support the weight of an adult human. The biggest egg on record weighed 2.35 kg (5 lb 3 oz) and was laid in June 1997 at Datong Xinda ostrich farm, Datong, Shanxi Province, China.

SMALLEST BIRD'S EGG
The vervain hummingbird (*Mellisuga minima*) of the West Indies lays smaller eggs than any other bird. The smallest vervain hummingbird's eggs on record were less than 10 mm (0.39 in) long and weighed 0.365 g (0.0129 oz) and 0.375 g (0.0132 oz).

An egg laid on 5 Oct 1998 by a German crested canary owned by MJ de Kok of Heijen, Netherlands, was 7 mm (0.27 in) long, 5.25 mm (0.2 in) in diameter and weighed 0.027 g (0.0009 oz).

BIGGEST BIRD'S NEST
A nest 2.9 m (9 ft 6 in) wide and 6 m (19 ft 8 in) deep was built by a pair of bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and possibly their successors, near St Petersburg, Florida, USA. It was estimated to weigh more than 2 tonnes (1.97 tons) when examined in 1963.

LONGEST TIME SPENT UNDERWATER BY A BIRD
In 1969 an emperor penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) made a dive at Cape Crozier, Antarctica, that lasted a record-breaking 18 minutes.

SMALLEST FISH
The shortest marine fish – and the shortest known vertebrate – is the dwarf goby (*Trimmatom nanus*) of the Indo-Pacific region. The average length of the species is just 8.6 mm (0.339 in) for males and 8.9 mm (0.35 in) for females.

The shortest and lightest freshwater fish is the dwarf pygmy goby (*Pandaka pygmaea*), a colourless and nearly transparent species found in the streams and lakes of Luzon in the Philippines. Males have an average length of 8.7 mm (0.343 in) and weigh 4–5 mg (0.00014–0.00018 oz).

FASTEST FISH
The cosmopolitan sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*) is the fastest species of fish over short distances. In speed trials carried out at the Long Key Fishing Camp, Florida, USA, one sailfish took out 91 m (300 ft) of line in 3 seconds, which is equivalent to a velocity of 109 km/h (68 mph) (cf 96 km/h or 60 mph for the cheetah).

MOST POISONOUS FISH
Although many species of fish are poisonous to eat, the most deadly for humans is the puffer fish (*Tetraodon*) of the Red Sea and Indo-Pacific region. Its ovaries, eggs, blood, liver, intestines and skin all contain the poison tetrodotoxin, less than 0.1 g (0.004 oz) of which will kill an adult in 20 minutes.

MOST FISH EGGS
The ocean sunfish (*Mola mola*) produces up to 30 million eggs at one spawning, each with a diameter of 1.3 mm (0.05 in).

OLDEST FISH
A female European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) named Putte was reported to be 88 years old when it died at Hälsingborg Museum, Sweden, in 1948.

A goldfish named Tish, owned by Hilda and Gordon Hand of Thirsk, N Yorks, UK, lived for 43 years after being won at a fairground in 1956.

← SLOWEST FISH
The slowest-moving fish are the sea horses (*Syngnathidas*), of which there are about 30 species. Some of the smaller species, such as the dwarf sea horse (*Hippocampus zosterae*), probably never attain speeds of more than 0.016 km/h (0.001 mph).

Animal World 3

SMALLEST AMPHIBIAN
The smallest known amphibian is the frog *Eleutherodactylus limbatus*, found in Cuba, which measures just 8.5-12 mm (0.33–0.47 in) from snout to vent.

BIGGEST AMPHIBIAN
The world's biggest amphibian is the Chinese giant salamander (*Andrias davidianus*), which lives in mountain streams in northeastern, central and southern China. The largest specimen on record was 1.8 m (5 ft 11 in) long and weighed 65 kg (143 lb).

SMALLEST SPIDER
Patu marplesi of the family Symphytognathidae from Western Samoa is the world's smallest known spider. A male found in 1965 had an overall length of just 0.43 mm (0.017 in) — about the size of one of the full stops on this page.

BIGGEST SPIDER
The world's largest spider is the goliath bird-eating spider (*Theraphosa leblondi*), which lives mainly in the coastal rainforests of Surinam, Guyana and French Guiana. Two specimens with a leg-span of 28 cm (11 in) have been recorded: one found in Venezuela in 1965 and another bred by Robert Bustard of Alyth, Perthshire, UK.

BIGGEST SPIDER'S WEB
In Oct 1998 a cobweb that covered the entire 4.5-ha (11.2-acre) playing field at Kineton High School, Kineton, Warwicks, UK, was discovered by Ken Thompson, the school's caretaker. It had been created by thousands of black money spiders.

BIGGEST CRUSTACEAN
The biggest crustacean is the taka-ashi-gani or giant spider crab (*Macrocheira kaempferi*). The largest specimen on record had a claw-span of 3.7 m (12 ft 2 in) and weighed 18.6 kg (41 lb).

OLDEST CHELONIAN
A Madagascar radiated tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*) named Tui Malila was presented to the Tongan royal family by Captain James Cook in either 1773 or 1777. It remained in their care until its death in 1965, aged either 188 or 192.

SMALLEST CHELONIAN
The world's smallest chelonian is the speckled cape tortoise or speckled padloper (*Homopus signatus*), which has a shell length of 6–9.6 cm (2.4–3.8 in).

SHORTEST SNAKES
The thread snake (*Leptotyphlops bilineata*) and the Brahminy blindsnake (*Ramphotyphlops braminus*) both have a maximum length of 10.8 cm (4.25 in).

LONGEST SNAKE
The reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*) regularly exceeds 6.25 m (20 ft 6 in) in length. A specimen shot in Celebes, Indonesia, in 1912 was a record 10 m (32 ft 10 in) long.

OLDEST SNAKE
A male common boa (*Boa constrictor constrictor*) named Popeye was a record 40 years 3 months old when he died at Philadelphia Zoo, Pennsylvania, USA, in April 1977.

SMALLEST LIZARD
Sphaerodactylus parthenopion, a gecko indigenous to Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands, is

⊙ FASTEST LAND INSECT
The fastest insects on land are certain large tropical cockroaches of the family Dictyoptera. In an experiment carried out at the University of California at Berkeley, USA, in 1991 a *Periplaneta americana* registered a record speed of 5.4 km/h (3.36 mph), or 50 body lengths per second.

⊙ LONGEST VENOMOUS SNAKE
The king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*), also called the hamadryad, has an average length of 3.65–4.5 m (12–15 ft). A 5.54-m-long (18-ft 2-in) specimen captured near Fort Dickson, Negri Sembilan (now Malaysia), in April 1937 later grew to 5.71 m (18 ft 9 in) in London Zoo, UK. A king cobra is seen here fighting a man in a boxing ring in Bangkok, Thailand.

known from just 15 specimens. The three largest among some pregnant females found in 1964 were 1.8 cm (0.7 in) long from snout to vent, with tails of approximately the same length.

SMALLEST CROCODILIAN
The smallest crocodilian in the world is the dwarf caiman (*Paleosuchus palpebrosus*) of northern South America. Females rarely exceed 1.2 m (4 ft) in length, while males are slightly longer at up to 1.5 m (4 ft 11 in).

BIGGEST REPTILE
The estuarine or saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*), which is found throughout the tropical regions of Asia and the Pacific, is the largest reptile in the world. A specimen housed at the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Orissa State, India, is a record 7 m (23 ft) in length.

MOST VENOMOUS JELLYFISH
The Australian sea wasp or box jellyfish (*Chironex fleckeri*) has caused the deaths of at least 70 people over the last 100 years. Without medical aid, its victims can die within four minutes.

SHORTEST ADULT LIFE
Mayflies (*Ephemeroptera*) spend two to three years as nymphs at the bottom of lakes and streams but then live for as little as an hour as winged adults.

MOST FERTILE ANIMAL
With unlimited food and no predators, a single cabbage aphid (*Brevicoryne brassicae*), a species that reproduces asexually, could theoretically create an 822-million tonne (809-million ton) mass of descendants every year – more than three times the weight of the world's human population.

BIGGEST BUTTERFLY
The biggest butterfly in the world is the Queen Alexandra's birdwing (*Ornithoptera alexandrae*) of Papua New Guinea. Females can have a wingspan exceeding 28 cm (11 in) and weigh over 25 g (0.9 oz).

BIGGEST INSECT EGGS
Eggs laid by the Malaysian stick insect (*Heteropteryx dilitata*) are a record-breaking 1.3 cm (0.5 in) long, making them larger than peanuts.

BIGGEST EYES
The Atlantic giant squid (*Architeuthis dux*) has larger eyes than any other animal, either living or extinct. A record-breaking specimen found in Thimble Tickle Bay, Newfoundland, Canada, in 1878 had eyes with an estimated diameter of 50 cm (20 in).

MOST DESTRUCTIVE INSECT
The desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*), found in the dry and semi-arid regions of Africa, the Middle East and western Asia, is only 4.5–6 cm (1.8–2.4 in) long but can eat its own weight in food every day. In certain weather conditions, vast numbers of desert locusts gather in huge swarms that move throughout the countryside, devouring almost all the vegetation in their path. In a single day, a 'small' swarm of about 50 million locusts can eat enough food to sustain 500 people for a year.

← BIGGEST SNAIL
The largest land gastropod is the African giant snail *Achatina achatina*. The biggest specimen on record was 39.3 cm (15.5 in) long from snout to tail and weighed exactly 900 g (2 lb). Named Gee Geronimo, it was owned by Christopher Hudson of Hove, E Sussex, UK.

Plant World

TALLEST TREES
An Australian eucalyptus at Watts River, Victoria, Australia, had a height of 132.6 m (435 ft) in 1872. However, it had almost certainly been over 150 m (492 ft) tall originally.

The tallest tree standing today is the Mendocino Tree, a coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) found at Montgomery State Reserve near Ukiah, California, USA. In Sept 1998 it was 112 m (367 ft 5 in) tall with a diameter of 3.14 m (10 ft 4 in). It is estimated to be about 1,000 years old.

MOST MASSIVE TREES
The most massive tree ever discovered was Lindsey Creek Tree, a coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) which grew in the USA. Its trunk had a volume of 2,500 m³ (90,000 ft³) and its total mass (including foliage, branches and roots) was 3,300 tonnes (3,247 tons). It blew over in a storm in 1905.

The most massive living tree is the giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) General Sherman, which is found in the Sequoia National Park, California, USA. It is 83.8 m (275 ft) tall with a diameter of 11.1 m (36 ft 5 in), a circumference of 31.3 m (102 ft 8 in) and a trunk volume of 1,487 m³ (52,515 ft³). It has a total weight of approximately 2,000 tonnes (1,968 tons). It has been estimated that the tree contains enough timber to make 5 billion matches.

FASTEST-GROWING TREE
An *Albizzia falcata* planted in Sabah, Malaysia, on 17 June 1974 was found to have grown 10.74 m (35 ft 3 in) in 13 months – or about 28 mm (1.1 in) per day.

DEEPEST TREE ROOTS
The roots of a wild fig tree at Echo Caves, near Ohrigstad, Transvaal, South Africa, are known to have penetrated to a record depth of 120 m (394 ft).

OLDEST TREE
Eternal God, a 7,000-year old redwood found in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, California, USA, is the oldest living tree on record. It is 72.54 m (238 ft) tall and has a diameter of 5.97 m (19 ft 7 in).

BIGGEST WEED
The giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), originally from the Caucasus, can reach a height of 3.65 m (12 ft) and has 91-cm-long (35.8-in) leaves.

BIGGEST FLOWER
The mottled orange-brown and white parasitic plant *Rafflesia arnoldii* has the largest flower of any plant in the world. Each bloom is 91 cm (35.8 in) wide and can weigh up to 11 kg (24.3 lb), with petals up to 1.9 cm (0.75 in) thick.

MOST DAMAGING WEED
The virulence of a weed is generally measured by the number of different crops it affects and the number of countries in which it grows. On this basis, the most damaging weed would appear to be the purple nutgrass or nutsedge (*Cyperus rotundus*), a land weed that is native to India but which attacks 52 crops in 92 countries.

FASTEST-GROWING PLANT
Some species of bamboo grow at a rate of up to 91 cm (3 ft) per day, or 0.00003 km/h (0.00002 mph).

LONGEST PLANT ROOTS
A single winter rye plant (*Secale cereale*) has been shown to produce 622.8 km (387 miles) of roots in 0.051 m³ (1.8 ft³) of earth.

⊙ LONGEST SEAWEED
The longest species of seaweed is the Pacific giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*). It can grow up to 60 m (197 ft) in length, at a rate of 45 cm (18 in) per day.

⊙ MOST POISONOUS FUNGUS
The yellowish-olive death cap (*Amanita phalloides*) is responsible for 90% of all fatal poisonings caused by fungi. Less than 50 g (1.8 oz) will cause vomiting, delirium, collapse and then death in humans between 6 and 15 hours after being eaten.

BIGGEST LEAVES
The raffia palm (*Raffia farinifera* or *Raffia ruffia*) of the Mascarene Islands in the Indian Ocean, and the Amazonian bamboo palm (*Raffia taedigera*) of South America and Africa have the largest leaves of any plants. Their leaf blades can grow to a length of up to 20 m (65 ft 7 in), with 4-m (13-ft) petioles.

BIGGEST SEED
The giant fan palm (*Lodoicea maldivica*, *Lodoicea callipyge* or *Lodoicea sechellarum*), commonly known as the double coconut or coco de mer, grows wild in the Seychelles. The single-seeded fruit produced by the plant weighs up to 20 kg (44 lb) and can take 10 years to develop.

SMALLEST SEED
Epiphytic orchids have the smallest seeds of any plant in the world, with 99.[illegible] million seeds per g (28,13[illegible] million per oz).

⊙ MOST HEADS ON ONE SUNFLOWER
In Sept 1998 Grigore Clim of Suceava, Romania, grew a sunflower with a record-breaking 61 heads.

BIGGEST FUNGUS
A single living clonal growth of the underground fungus *Armillaria ostoyae* covers an area of approximately 600 ha (1,500 acres) in the forests of Washington State, USA. It is between 500 and 1,000 years old.

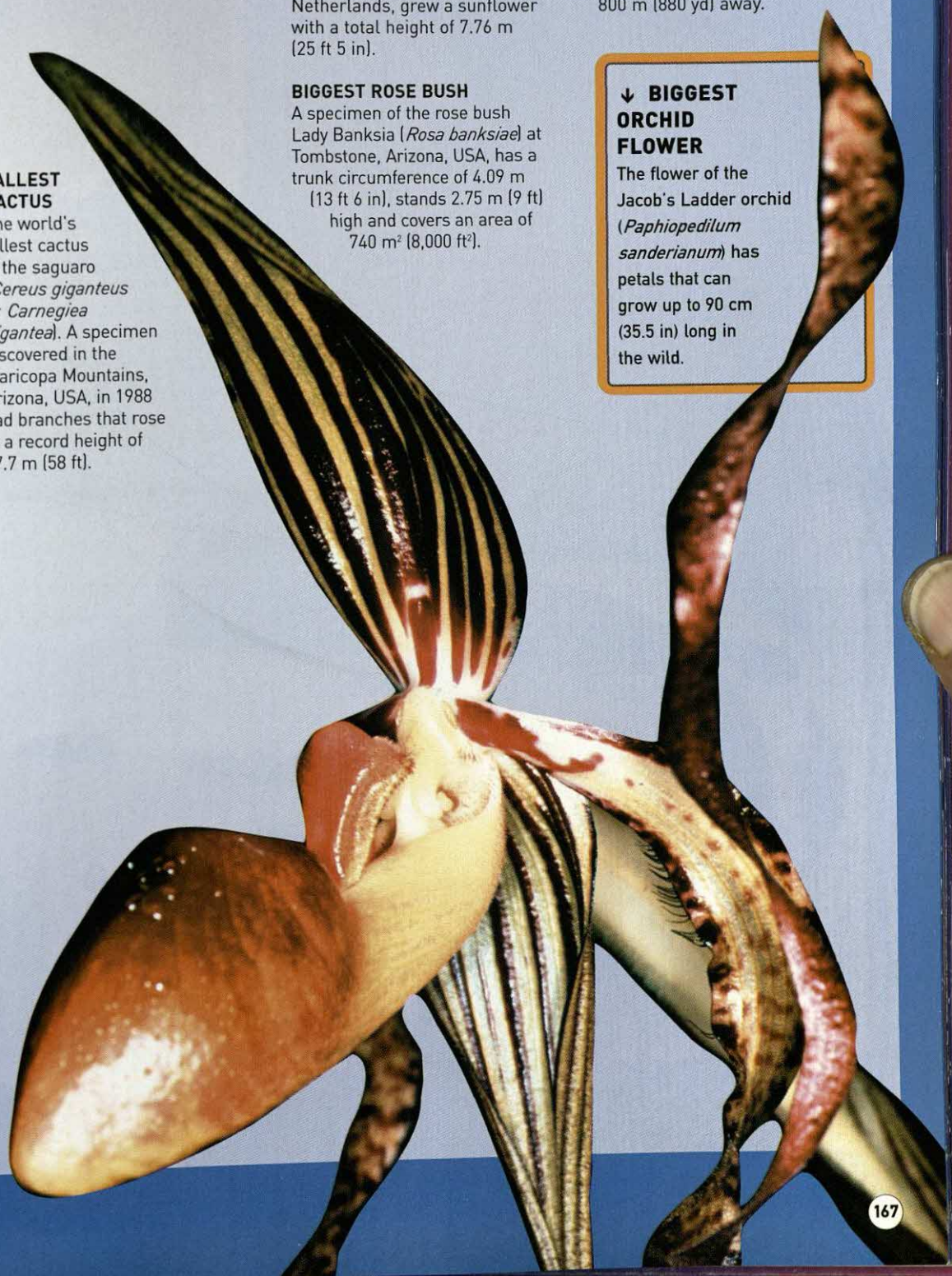
TALLEST CACTUS
The world's tallest cactus is the saguaro (*Cereus giganteus* or *Carnegiea gigantea*). A specimen discovered in the Maricopa Mountains, Arizona, USA, in 1988 had branches that rose to a record height of 17.7 m (58 ft).

TALLEST DOMESTICALLY-GROWN CACTUS
A cactus grown by Dr A Kashi of Karnataka, India, was 13.7 m (45 ft) tall in March 1998.

TALLEST DOMESTICALLY-GROWN SUNFLOWER
In 1986 M Heijms of Oirschot, Netherlands, grew a sunflower with a total height of 7.76 m (25 ft 5 in).

BIGGEST ROSE BUSH
A specimen of the rose bush Lady Banksia (*Rosa banksiae*) at Tombstone, Arizona, USA, has a trunk circumference of 4.09 m (13 ft 6 in), stands 2.75 m (9 ft) high and covers an area of 740 m² (8,000 ft²).

SMELLIEST FLOWER
Amorphophallus titanum, known as the corpse flower, is the smelliest flower on Earth. When it blooms, it releases an odour similar to that of rotten flesh, which can be smelled a distance of 800 m (880 yd) away.



↓ BIGGEST ORCHID FLOWER
The flower of the Jacob's Ladder orchid (*Paphiopedilum sanderianum*) has petals that can grow up to 90 cm (35.5 in) long in the wild.

Prehistoric World

EARLIEST SCIENTIFIC DESCRIPTION OF A DINOSAUR
The first dinosaur to be described scientifically was *Megalosaurus bucklandi* ('great fossil lizard') in 1824. Remains of this bipedal flesh-eater were found by workmen before 1818 in a quarry at Stonesfield, Oxfordshire, UK, and were later placed in the University Museum at Oxford.

EARLIEST DINOSAUR
The world's oldest known dinosaur bones were found in Madagascar in Oct 1999 by an international team of scientists from the Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois, USA. The fossils date from 230 million years ago (the Triassic period), making them about 3 million years older than those of the previous record-holder, *Eoraptor lunensis*.

BIGGEST DINOSAUR
The largest ever land animals were sauropod dinosaurs, a group of long-necked, long-tailed four-legged plant-eaters that lived in most areas of the world during the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods (about 208-65 million years ago). The brachiosaurid *Brachiosaurus altithorax* ('arm lizard') weighed 45–50 tonnes (44–49 tons), and the diplodocids *Seismosaurus hali* ('earthquake lizard') and *Supersaurus vivanae* both weighed an estimated 50–100 tonnes (49–98 tons). The titanosaurid Argentinosaurus is believed to have weighed up to 100 tonnes (98 tons), an estimate based on its vast vertebrae.

BIGGEST CARNIVORE
A skeleton of the largest predatory dinosaur was discovered in Neuquén, Argentina, in 1995. Named *Giganotosaurus carolinii*, the dinosaur was 12 m (40 ft) long and weighed 8 tonnes (7.8 tons). The bones suggest that it was both taller and more heavily built than *Tyrannosaurus rex*. It lived about 110 million years ago.

⊙ SMALLEST-BRAINED DINOSAURS
Stegosaurus ('plated lizard'), which lived about 150 million years ago, had a brain weighing only 70 g (2.5 oz) – 0.00002% of its computed bodyweight of 3.3 tonnes. This compares with a percentage of 0.0006 for an elephant and 1.88 for a human. It is possible that the brains of some sauropods were proportionately even smaller. The picture is from the movie *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* (USA, 1997).

⊙ OLDEST INTACT MAMMOTH
The oldest intact mammoth on record was found by a group of French scientists in Siberia, Russia, in Oct 1999. The animal is estimated to be 23,000 years old, and has tusks weighing 64.8 kg (143 lb) each. The objective of the expedition, which was sponsored by the Discovery Channel, was to find DNA from this extinct species to perform cloning experiments.

TALLEST DINOSAUR
The remains of a Sauroposeidon discovered in 1994 in Oklahoma, USA, belong to what is believed to be the tallest creature to have ever walked the Earth. The Sauroposeidon stood 18 m (60 ft) tall and weighed 60 tonnes (59 tons) with a neck about a third longer than that of the Brachiosaurus, its nearest competitor. It lived approximately 110 million years ago, during the mid-Cretaceous period.

LONGEST DINOSAUR
Based on the evidence of footprints, the brachiosaurid Breviparopus may have attained a length of 48 m (157 ft) from the head to the tip of the tail, making it the longest vertebrate on record.

The diplodocid *Seismosaurus halli*, which was discovered in New Mexico, USA, in 1980, was estimated to be 39–52 m (128–170 ft) long. In 1999 the dinosaur's bones were reconstructed at the Wyoming Dinosaur Center, Thermopolis, Wyoming, USA, creating a skeleton with a total length of 41 m (135 ft). This was disassembled in Aug 1999 and taken on tour around the USA.

SMALLEST ADULT DINOSAURS
The chicken-sized Compsognathus ('pretty jaw'), a carnivorous dinosaur that lived in southern Germany and southeast France approximately 145 million years ago, measured 60 cm (23 in) from the snout to the tip of the tail, weighing about 3 kg (6 lb 8 oz). The insect-eating Saltopus and the plant-eating Lesothosaurus, both of which lived about 200 million years ago, were of a similar size.

BIGGEST-BRAINED DINOSAURS
The most intelligent dinosaurs were Troodontids (formerly known as Saurornithoidids). They had the largest brain-to-body size ratio of all non-avian dinosaurs, making them about as intelligent as modern-day birds. Their large brains, huge eyes and grasping hands indicate that they had a predatory lifestyle similar to that of small wild cats.

FASTEST DINOSAUR
The large-brained 100-kg (220-lb) Dromiceiomimus ('emu mimic lizard') of the late Cretaceous period, from Alberta, Canada, could probably outsprint an ostrich, which has a top speed in excess of 60 km/h (37 mph).

DINOSAUR WITH MOST TEETH
Pelecanimimus, an ornithomimid ('bird-like dinosaur'), had over 220 very sharp teeth.

BIGGEST SKULL
The long-frilled Torosaurus ('bull lizard'), a ceratopsid, had the largest skull of any known land animal. The 7.6-m-long (25-ft) herbivore's skull was up to 3 m (9 ft 10 in) in length (including the fringe) and weighed up to 2 tonnes (1.97 tons). The Torosaurus itself weighed up to 8 tonnes (7.8 tons). It lived between Montana and Texas, USA.

↓ BIGGEST FLYING CREATURE
The largest ever flying creature was the pterosaur *Quetzalcoatlus northropi* ('feathered serpent'), which lived in North America and Africa 70 million years ago. Partial remains discovered in Big Bend National Park, Texas, USA, in 1971 indicate that it would have had a wingspan of 11 m (36 ft), weighing approximately 86 kg (190 lb).

BIGGEST CLAWS
The therizinosaurids ('scythe lizards'), which lived in Mongolia in the late Cretaceous period, had the largest claws of any known animal. The claws of *Therizinosaurus cheloniformis* were up to 90 cm (36 in) long along the outer curve. It has been suggested that they were designed for grasping and tearing apart large victims, but as this dinosaur had a feeble skull with very few (or no) teeth, it was more likely to have lived on termites.

OLDEST FOSSIL PLANT
The oldest known fossil plant is the 428-million-year-old Cooksonia, which grew in Ireland during the Silurian period.

EARLIEST BIRDS
The earliest bird is known from two partial skeletons found in Texas, USA, in rocks dating back 220 million years. Named *Protoavis texensis* in 1991, this pheasant-sized creature caused much controversy as it is many millions of years older than the previous record-holder, the more familiar *Archaeopteryx lithographica* (the fossil of which was found in Jurassic sediments in Germany). However, as it is still unclear whether Protoavis will be widely accepted as a true bird, Archaeopteryx, a 153-million-year-old crow-sized flier, remains the earliest officially recognized bird.

Astronomy

MOST LUMINOUS OBJECT
The most luminous object in the sky is the quasar HS1946+7658, which is at least 1.5 x 10^{15} times more luminous than the Sun.

BIGGEST STRUCTURE IN THE UNIVERSE
The largest structure found in the Universe to date is a cocoon-shaped shell of galaxies about 650 million light years across. Its discovery by a team of French astronomers, led by Georges Paturel, was announced in June 1994.

NEAREST STARS
Excluding our own Sun, the nearest star is the very faint Proxima Centauri, which is 4.23 light years away.

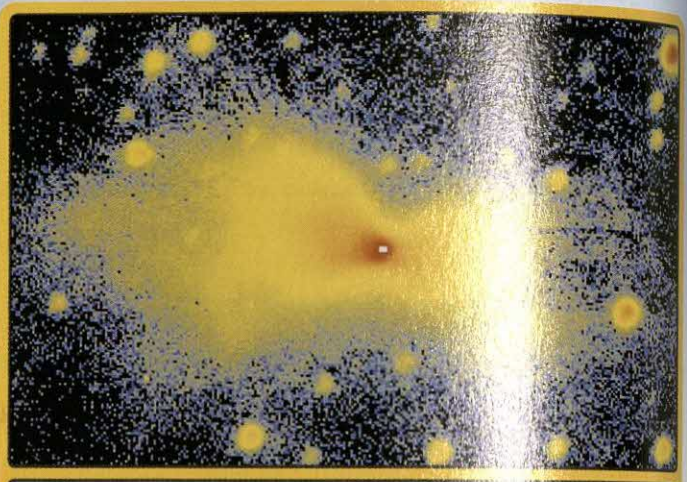
The nearest star visible to the naked eye is the southern-hemisphere binary Alpha Centauri, which is 4.40 light years distant.

YOUNGEST STARS
The youngest stars in the Universe are believed to be two protostars known collectively as IRAS-4. Buried deep in dust clouds in the nebula NGC1333, 1,100 light years distant, they were discovered in May 1991 by a combined British, German and American team. They will not blaze as fully-fledged stars for at least another 100,000 years.

SMALLEST STARS
Neutron stars, which may have a mass up to three times that of the Sun, are 10–30 km (6–18 miles) in diameter.

OLDEST STARS
By Jan 1991, a group of astronomers led by Timothy Beers (USA) had discovered 70 stars that they believe to be the oldest in the Galaxy. The stars, which were detected in the halo high above the disc of the Milky Way, were formed approximately 1 billion years after the Big Bang. The group eventually expect to detect a further 430 such stars.

BIGGEST STAR
The M-class supergiant Betelgeuse (*alpha Orionis*), which is 430 light years away from Earth, has a diameter of 980 million km (609 million miles) – 700 times greater than that of the Sun.



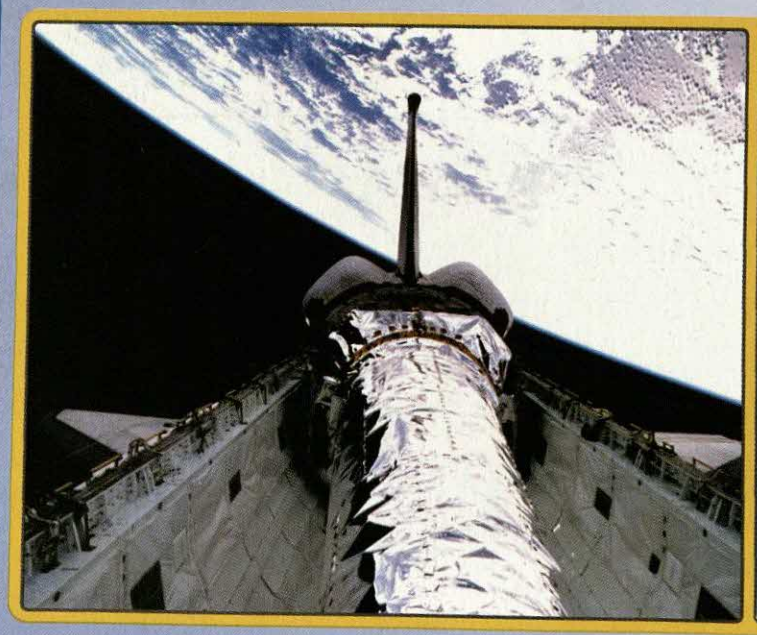
⊙ COLDEST PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE
The Boomerang nebula, a cloud of dust and gases 5,000 light years away from Earth, has a temperature of -270 °C (-454 °F).

BIGGEST CONSTELLATION
The largest constellation is Hydra (the Sea Serpent). It covers an area of 1,302.844 deg², or 3.16% of the whole sky, and contains at least 68 stars visible to the naked eye.

SMALLEST CONSTELLATION
The smallest of the 88 constellations is Crux Australis (the Southern Cross), which has an area of 68.477 deg², or 0.16% of the whole sky.

BRIGHTEST STAR IN THE GALAXY
Pistol, which was discovered by the Hubble Space Telescope in Oct 1997, is 10 million times brighter than the Sun. However, it cannot be seen with the naked eye from Earth as most of its light is absorbed by space dust. Astronomers calculate that it emits as much energy in six seconds as the Sun does in a year. While this makes it the most powerful star yet identified, it also suggests that it will burn itself out within a short time.

SMALLEST SATELLITE
The smallest satellite of any planet in the Solar System is Deimos, the outer moon of Mars.



⊙ MOST POWERFUL X-RAY TELESCOPE
The Chandra X-Ray Telescope, which was launched in July 1999, has resolving power equivalent to the ability to read the letters on a stop sign at a distance of 19 km (12 miles). It orbits the Earth more than 200 times higher than the Hubble Space Telescope, observing X-rays from high-energy regions of the Universe. Chandra's power comes from the size and smoothness of its mirrors.

Irregularly shaped, it has an average diameter of 12.5 km (7.8 miles) and a mass of 1.8×10^{15} kg – 40 million times less than that of the Moon.

BIGGEST SATELLITE
The biggest satellite of any planet in the Solar System is Ganymede, orbiting Jupiter. It has a diameter of 5,267 km (3,273 miles) and a mass of 1.48×10^{23} tonnes (1.46×10^{23} tons) – 2,917 times that of the Moon.

SMALLEST AND COLDEST PLANET
Pluto has a diameter of 2,320 km (1,442 miles) and a mass 0.0022 that of the Earth. Its surface temperature is believed to be similar to that of Neptune's moon Triton, which is –233 °C (–387 °F) – the lowest surface temperature observed on a natural body in the Solar System.

⊙ HIGHEST MOUNTAIN
Olympus Mons is the highest mountain in the Solar System. Its peak is 27.35 km (17 miles) above its base, making it nearly three times higher than Mt Everest. Despite its great height, Olympus Mons has a very gentle slope, being over 20 times wider than it is high.

→ MOST DURABLE TV ASTRONOMER
The Sky At Night, which is shown monthly on British television, has been presented by Patrick Moore without a break since 24 April 1957. By Jan 2000 a total of 553 shows had been broadcast.

BIGGEST PLANET
Jupiter is the largest of the nine major planets, with an equatorial diameter of 142,984 km (88,849 miles) and a polar diameter of 133,708 km (83,085 miles). Its mass is 317.8 times, and its volume 1,323.3 times, that of the Earth. It also has the shortest period of rotation of any planet, resulting in a 9-hr 55-min 29.69-sec day.

HOTTEST PLANET
Measurements taken by the *Venera* (USSR) and *Pioneer* (USA) probes indicate Venus' surface temperature to be 464 °C (867 °F).

BRIGHTEST PLANET
If Jupiter and the Earth were viewed at the same distance, Jupiter would be approximately 164 times brighter.

Viewed from Earth, the brightest of the five planets normally visible to the naked eye (Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Saturn and Venus) is Venus, with a maximum magnitude of –4.4.

GREATEST METEOR SHOWER
The greatest meteor shower on record occurred on the night of 16–17 Nov 1966, when the Leonid meteors, which occur every 33 years 3 months, were seen between western North America and eastern Russia (then USSR). It was calculated that meteors passed over Arizona, USA, at a rate of 2,300 per minute for 20 minutes on 17 Nov 1966.

BIGGEST METEORITE
A 2.7-m (9-ft 10-in) by 2.4-m (8-ft 10-in) meteorite found at Hoba West, near Grootfontein, Namibia, in 1920 was estimated to weigh 59 tonnes (58 tons).

LONGEST ECLIPSE
The longest possible eclipse of the Sun is 7 min 31 sec. The longest eclipse in recent times took place west of the Philippines on 20 June 1955, lasting for 7 min 8 sec. An eclipse of 7 min 29 sec is expected to occur in the mid-Atlantic Ocean on 16 July 2186.

BIGGEST COMET
Centaur 2060 Chiron, which was discovered in May 1977, has a diameter of 182 km (113 miles).

BIGGEST ASTEROID
The first asteroid discovered, 1 Ceres, is also the largest, with an average diameter of 941 km (585 miles).

SMALLEST ASTEROID
Discovered on 21 May 1993, the asteroid 1993KA2 has a diameter of about 5 m (16 ft).

Weather

HIGHEST SHADE TEMPERATURE
A shade temperature of 58°C (136.4°F) was recorded at Al'Aziziyan, Libya, on 13 Sept 1922.

WINDIEST PLACE
A surface wind speed of 231 mph (371.75 km/h) was recorded at Mount Washington, New Hampshire, USA, on 12 April 1934.

MOST TORNADOES IN 24 HOURS
A total of 148 tornadoes swept through the southern and midwestern states of the USA from 3 to 4 April 1974.

MOST TORNADOES BY AREA
The United Kingdom has the highest frequency of tornadoes by area, with an average of one tornado per 7,397 km² (2,856 miles²) recorded every year.

⊙ LOWEST TEMPERATURE
The lowest natural temperature reliably recorded on the Earth's surface was –89.2°C (–128.6°F), measured at Vostok, Antarctica, on 21 July 1983.

FASTEST TORNADO
The highest speed measured to date in a tornado is 450 km/h (280 mph), at Wichita Falls, Texas, USA, on 2 April 1958.

LONGEST STORM-CHASING CAREER
David Hoadley of Falls Church, Virginia, USA, has chased storms since 1956 and has devoted most of his adult life to cataloguing them on film and video. He covered 32,000 km (20,000 miles) and waited eight years before he saw his first tornado.

MOST THUNDERY DAYS
Between 1967 and 1976 an average of 251 thundery days per year was recorded in Tororo, Uganda.

GREATEST TEMPERATURE RANGES
The temperature in Verkhoyansk, Siberia, Russia, has been as low as –68°C (–90.4°F) and as high as 37°C (98.6°F) – a range of 105°C (189°F).

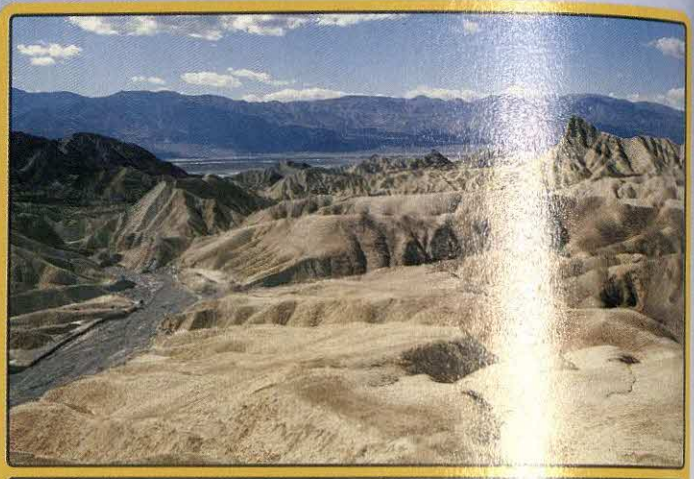
Between 23 and 24 Jan 1916 the temperature in Browning, Montana, USA, fell from 7°C (44.6°F) to –49°C (–56.2°F).

On 22 Jan 1943 the temperature at Spearfish, South Dakota, USA, rose from –20°C (–4°F) at 7.30 am to 7°C (44.6°F) at 7.32 am.

MOST SUNSHINE
Yuma, Arizona, USA, experiences an average of 4,055 hours of sunshine (out of a possible 4,456 hours) per year.

From Feb 1967 to March 1969 St Petersburg, Florida, USA, recorded 768 consecutive sunny days.

BIGGEST SNOWFLAKE
During a snowstorm at Fort Keogh, Montana, USA, on 28 Jan 1887, ranch owner Matt Coleman discovered a snowflake that was 38 cm (15 in) wide and 20 cm (8 in) thick, and which he later described as being 'larger than milk pans' in the magazine *Monthly Weather Review*. A mail courier caught in the same snowstorm witnessed the fall of these giant flakes over several miles.



⊙ HOTTEST PLACE
Temperatures of over 49°C (120.2°F) were recorded in Death Valley, California, USA, on 43 consecutive days in July and Aug 1917.

HEAVIEST HAILSTONES
Hailstones weighing up to 1 kg (2.2 lb) each are reported to have killed 92 people in Gopalganj, Bangladesh, on 14 April 1986.

GREATEST SNOWFALLS
Snow with a depth of 11,460 mm (451 in) was recorded at Tamarac, California, USA, in March 1911.

Between Feb 1971 and Feb 1972 a record 311,099 mm (12,246 in) of snow fell at Paradise, Mt Rainier, Washington, USA.

The most snow produced in a single snowstorm is 4,800 mm (189 in), which fell at Mt Shasta Ski Bowl, California, USA, from 13 to 19 Feb 1959.

The greatest snowfall over a 24-hour period is 1,930 mm (76 in), recorded at Silver Lake, Colorado, USA, from 14 to 15 April 1921.

COLDEST PLACES
Polyus Nedostupnosti (Pole of Inaccessibility), Antarctica, has an extrapolated annual mean temperature of –58°C (–72.4°F).

The coldest measured annual mean temperature is –57°C (–70.6°F), recorded at Plateau Station, Antarctica.

The coldest permanently inhabited place in the world is the village of Oymyakon in Siberia, Russia, which has a population of 4,000. The temperature there descended to –68°C (–90.4°F) in 1933 and to an unofficial –72°C (–97.6°F) more recently.

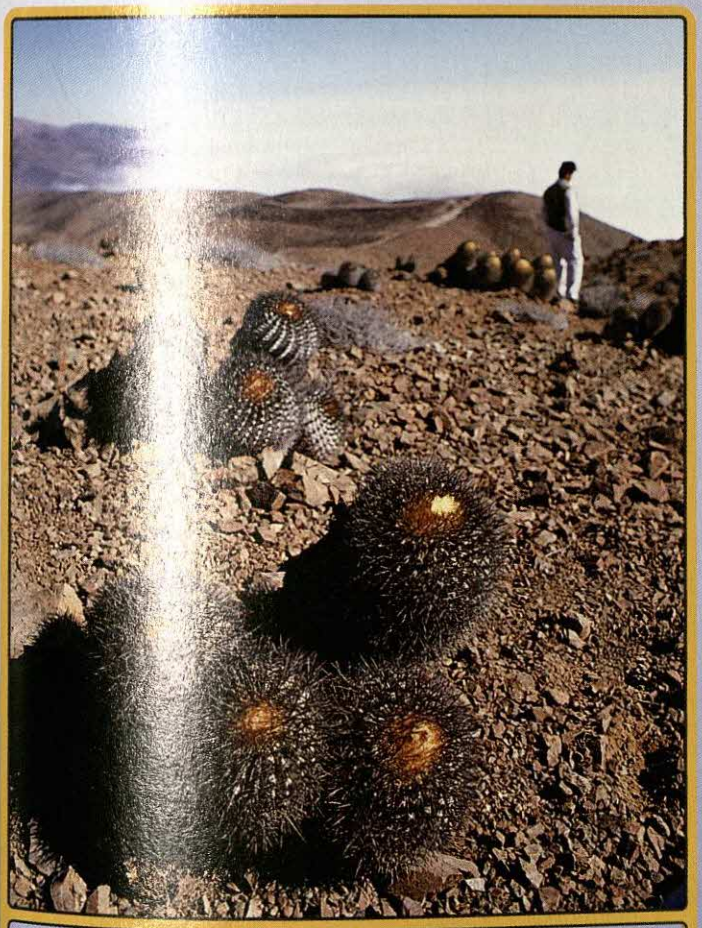
MOST RAINY DAYS
Mt Waialeale on Kauai, Hawaii, USA, has up to 350 rainy days per year.

MOST INTENSE RAINFALL
On 26 Nov 1970 38.1 mm (1.5 in) of rain fell in one minute at Basse Terre, Guadeloupe.

HIGHEST RAINFALL
Mawsynram, Meghalaya State, India, has an average annual rainfall of 11,873 mm (467 in).

A total of 26,461[illegible] mm (1,042 in) of rain fell at Cherrapunji, India, in the 12-month period between 1 Aug 1860 and 31 July 1861. This included a record monthly rainfall of 9,300 mm (366 in) in July 1861.

BIGGEST FLOOD
The world's largest freshwater flood occurred approximately 18,000 years ago, when a 120-km-long (75-mile) ice-dammed lake in the Altay Mountains, Siberia, Russia, broke, allowing the water to pour out. The main flow of water was estimated to be 490 m (1,600 ft) deep and to have travelled at a speed of 160 km/h (100 mph).



⊙ DRIEST PLACE
The Atacama Desert in northern Chile experiences virtually no rain. Occasional squalls will strike small areas of the desert several times a century.

⊙ MOST TORNADOES SIGHTED
Gene Moore of San Antonio, Texas, USA, has seen over 263 tornadoes in 30 years of storm-chasing, including eight in one day on 10 April 1997. His main period of activity is between March and June, when severe weather is most likely to occur.

Diseases & Parasites 1

MOST DANGEROUS ANIMAL
Malarial parasites of the genus *Plasmodium*, which are carried by Anopheles mosquitoes, have probably been responsible for half of all human deaths (excluding wars and accidents) since the Stone Age. According to 1993 World Health Organization estimates, between 1.4 million and 2.8 million people die from malaria each year in sub-Saharan Africa alone.

BIGGEST PARASITE
The broad or fish tapeworm *Diphyllobothrium latum*, which inhabits the small intestine of fish and sometimes humans, is normally 9.1–12.2 m (30–40 ft) long but has been known to reach 18.3 m (60 ft). A specimen that lived for 10 years would shed bodily segments 8 km (5 miles) long and release 2 billion eggs.

BIGGEST PARASITIC NEMATODES
Placentonema gigantissimus, which infects the placenta of sperm whales, is the world's biggest parasitic nematode. It can reach a length of 7.62 m (25 ft).

The largest parasitic nematode found in humans is the Guinea worm *Dracunculus medinensis*, a subcutaneous species whose females can reach 1.21 m (3 ft 11 in) in length. The adult worms spend their lives travelling through the human body, and eventually emerge through blisters in the skin to shed eggs.

LONGEST-LIVING PARASITE
A lifespan of 27 years has been reliably recorded for the medicinal leech *Hirudo medicinalis*.

MOST BLOODTHIRSTY PARASITES
The indistinguishable eggs of the hookworms *Ancylostoma duodenale* and *Necator americanus* are found in the faeces of 1.3 billion people worldwide. In cases of heavy infestation, the lining of the gut is so thickly covered with worms that they look like the pile of a carpet. The bleeding that results from their feeding adds up to 10 million litres (2.6 million gal) of blood worldwide every day.

MOST SUCCESSFUL PARASITIC WORM IN HUMANS
The large roundworm *Ascaris lumbricoides*, which can be up to 45 cm (1 ft 6 in) in length, parasitizes the small intestine of approximately 25% of the human population. The simultaneous migration of large quantities of Ascaris larvae through the lungs can cause severe haemorrhagic pneumonia.

⊙ BIGGEST PARASITE SPECIMEN
The beef tapeworm *Taeniarhynchus saginatus* usually grows to a length of around 5 m (16 ft). However, the largest specimen on record was over 23 m (75 ft) long – 4.7 m (15 ft) longer than the biggest *Diphyllobothrium latum* (see main text).

LONGEST PARASITIC FAST
The soft tick *Ornithodoros turicata*, which spreads the spirochaete that causes relapsing fever, has been known to survive for up to five years without food.

⊙ MOST COMMON CONTAGIOUS DISEASE
The most common infectious disease is the cold. Caused by a group of rhinoviruses of which there are at least 180 types, the condition is almost universal, and is only avoided by those living in small isolated communities or in the frozen wastes of Antarctica.

MOST PARASITIZED HOST SPECIES
Stagnicola emarginata, a type of freshwater snail from the Great Lakes of the USA and Canada, transmits parasites that cause 'swimmer's itch'. This snail is a host for the larvae of at least 35 species of parasitic fluke.

MOST ADAPTABLE FLUKE
Most flukes infect very few different organisms, but the liver fluke *Fasciola hepatica* has been found as an adult in the liver, gall bladder and associated ducts in a range of mammalian species, including sheep, cattle, goats, pigs, horses, rabbits, squirrels, dogs and humans.

MOST USEFUL PARASITE
The medical leech *Hirudo medicinalis*, which was traditionally used by doctors for blood-letting, has made a comeback. In 1991 a team of Canadian surgeons led by Dr Dean Vistnes took advantage of the anticoagulants in leeches' saliva to drain away blood and prevent it from clotting during an operation to reattach a patient's scalp. The animals used are specially cultured in sterile conditions.

MOST COMMON SKIN INFECTION
Tinea pedis, usually known as 'athlete's foot', is the most common skin infection in humans, affecting up to 70% of the population at least once during their lifetime. The symptoms of the condition, which is related to warmth and sweating, include cracked and peeling skin between the toes, intense itching and small blisters that may ooze a clear fluid.

↓ MOST COMMON DISEASES
The world's most common diseases are periodontal conditions such as gingivitis (inflammation of the gums). Across the planet, few people manage to escape their symptoms.

Diseases & Parasites 2

OLDEST DISEASES
Cases of leprosy were described in Egypt as early as 1350 BC.

Tuberculosis schistosomiasi, an infectious disease of the liver and kidneys, has been found in Egyptian mummies from the 20th dynasty (1250 to 1000 BC).

The plague and cholera are both referred to in the Old Testament of the Bible.

MOST COMMON CAUSES OF DEATH
According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 16.71 million, or 31%, of the 53.9 million deaths in 1998 were caused by cardiovascular diseases.

The most common cause of death among children aged 0–4 in the same period was infectious diseases, which accounted for 63% of all fatalities. Infectious diseases also caused a record 48% of all premature deaths – defined by the WHO as deaths before the age of 45.

FASTEST-GROWING DISEASE
According to the UN AIDS report of Dec 1998, 5.8 million people were infected with HIV in that year. The number of people living with the virus had risen by 10% since 1997, to a total of 33.4 million worldwide.

MOST RESURGENT DISEASE
The deterioration in health services following the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991 has been a major factor in the spread of diphtheria in the region. The International Red Cross estimates that there were between 150,000 and 200,000 cases of the disease in the countries of the former USSR in 1997. This compares with 2,000 cases in the Soviet Union in 1991.

MOST SUCCESSFUL IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN
The WHO declared the world free of smallpox on 1 Jan 1980. Formerly one of the world's deadliest plagues (it caused an estimated 2 million deaths per year in the mid-1960s), it was eradicated by one type of vaccine that was effective against all forms of the disease. The last known death from smallpox was in Aug 1978, when a medical photographer at Birmingham University, UK, was infected with a sample kept for research purposes.

⊙ NEWEST VIRUS
In 1999 the WHO officially recognised the Nipah virus, a paramyxovirus that is clinically similar to Japanese encephalitis. First reported in southeast Asia, Nipah is believed to be transmitted through direct contact with the tissue fluids of infected animals, particularly pigs.

DEADLIEST FLU OUTBREAK
A record 21,640,000 people died worldwide of influenza in 1918 and 1919.

DEADLIEST PANDEMIC
The pneumonic form of plague, also known as the Black Death, killed approximately one quarter of the population of Europe between 1347 and 1351. The disease is caused by the bacterium Yersinia pestis.

DEADLIEST AVIAN FLU OUTBREAK
Avian flu, a strain of influenza previously only known to affect birds, was found to have infected 16 people in Hong Kong, China, in 1997. Four people died from the virus, which is the first to have been passed directly from birds to humans.

DEADLIEST *E.COLI* OUTBREAKS
Twenty people died and 500 became ill after consuming meat from a butchers shop in Wishaw, Lothian, UK, in 1998. It had been contaminated with *Escherichia coli* O157-H7, a dangerous strain of a normally harmless bacterium.

More than 9,500 cases of E. coli food poisoning were reported in Japan during an outbreak in summer 1996, with 11 people dying as a result.

⊙ HIGHEST PREVALENCE OF LEPROSY
According to the WHO, at the start of 1999 there were 577,200 registered sufferers of leprosy in India, a figure that had increased by 634,901 to 1,212,101 in July 1999. Brazil had the second largest number of sufferers, with 72,953 in Jan 1999 and 116,886 by July 1999.

MOST MALARIA EPIDEMICS
According to the WHO, 1991 saw a record 144 epidemics of malaria worldwide. In recent years, the malaria virus has adapted to antimalarial treatments, with new strains showing increasing resistance to previously effective drugs.

MOST DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES
The West African island-republic of Sao Tome and Principe has a record 241 deaths a year per 100,000 people from infectious diseases.

FEWEST DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES
Austria has 2.8 deaths per annum per 100,000 people from infectious diseases.

MOST DEATHS FROM RESPIRATORY DISEASES
The Republic of Ireland has 204 deaths a year per 100,000 people from respiratory diseases.

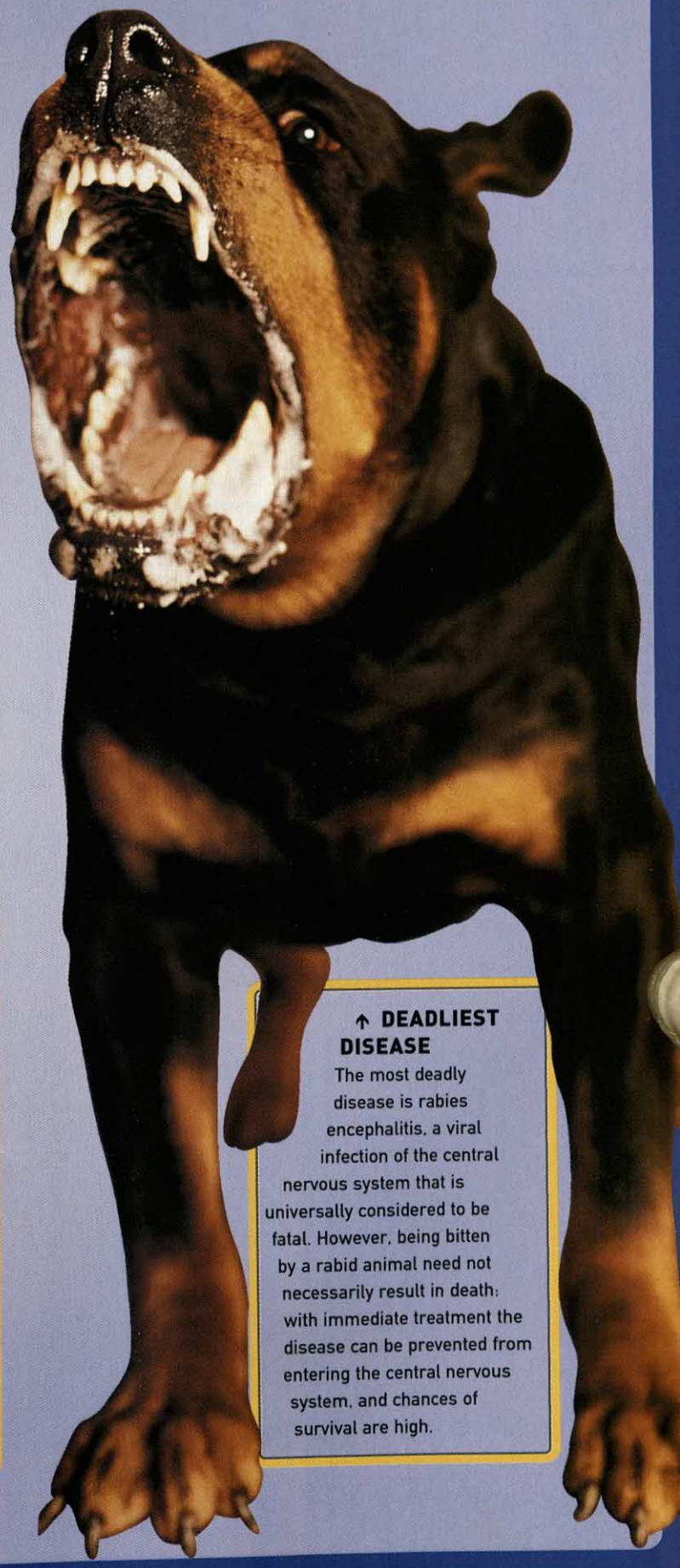
FEWEST DEATHS FROM RESPIRATORY DISEASES
Both Qatar and Malaysia have just 7.5 deaths per annum per 100,000 people from respiratory diseases.

MOST DEATHS FROM CANCER
Guernsey, Channel Islands, has a record 314 deaths a year per 100,000 people from cancer. The sovereign country with the highest rate is Hungary, with 313 deaths per annum per 100,000 people.

FEWEST DEATHS FROM CANCER
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has just six deaths per annum per 100,000 people from cancer.

MOST SURVIVABLE CANCER
The most survivable cancer is non-melanoma skin cancer. A total of 97% of patients diagnosed with the disease survive for at least five years.

⊙ MOST URGENT HEALTH PROBLEM
According to the WHO, tobacco-related illness will be the world's leading killer by the year 2020, responsible for more deaths than AIDS, tuberculosis, road accidents, murders and suicides put together. Populations in developing nations face the greatest risk as 85% of all smokers will come from these countries by the mid-2020s. Here, smokers in South Korea protest against the introduction of new anti-smoking laws.



↑ DEADLIEST DISEASE
The most deadly disease is rabies encephalitis, a viral infection of the central nervous system that is universally considered to be fatal. However, being bitten by a rabid animal need not necessarily result in death: with immediate treatment the disease can be prevented from entering the central nervous system, and chances of survival are high.

Medical Marvels

BIGGEST PREGNANCY
In 1971 Dr Gennaro Montanino from Rome, Italy, announced that he had removed 15 foetuses from the uterus of a 35-year-old woman who was four months pregnant. A fertility drug was responsible for this unique incidence of quindecaplets.

BIGGEST MULTIPLE BIRTHS
A record 10 children (two boys and eight girls) are reported to have been born at Bacacai, Brazil, on 22 April 1946. Reports of 10 children in one birth were also received from Spain in 1924 and China in 1936.

The highest fully authenticated number of children produced in one birth is nine (nonuplets), to Geraldine Brodick at the Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney, NSW, Australia, on 13 June 1971. None of the five boys and four girls lived longer than six days.

The record for surviving babies is seven (septuplets), born to Bobbie McCaughey at University Hospital, Iowa, USA, on 19 Nov 1997, and to Hasna Mohammed Humair at the Abha Obstetric Hospital, Aseer, Saudi Arabia, on 14 Jan 1998.

MOST CHILDREN
The highest officially recorded number of children born to one mother is 69, to Mrs Feodor Vassilyev of Shuya, Russia. In a total of 27 confinements between 1725 and 1765, she gave birth to 16 pairs of twins, seven sets of triplets and four sets of quadruplets. Only two of the children died in infancy.

MOST PREMATURE BABY
James Gill, the son of Brenda and James Gill, was born 128 days premature on 20 May 1987 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. He weighed 624 g (1.5 lb).

LONGEST SURVIVAL OUTSIDE WOMB
When Jane Ingram of Suffolk, UK, became pregnant with triplets, one fertilized egg became an ectopic pregnancy. Six weeks into the pregnancy, her fallopian tube ruptured and the rogue egg attached itself to the exterior wall of her uterus, developing its own placenta. The egg continued to grow, and on 3 Sept 1999, 29 weeks into the pregnancy, a boy, Ronan, was delivered by Caesarean section, along with his two sisters Olivia and Mary.

⊙ SMALLEST MEDICAL SUBMARINE
In 1999 German company MicroTEC produced a micro-submarine just 4 mm (0.16 in) in length, with a diameter of 0.65 mm (0.025 in). Made using computer-guided lasers, the submarine will be used to travel to sites of blockage or damage in blood vessels and repair them from within.

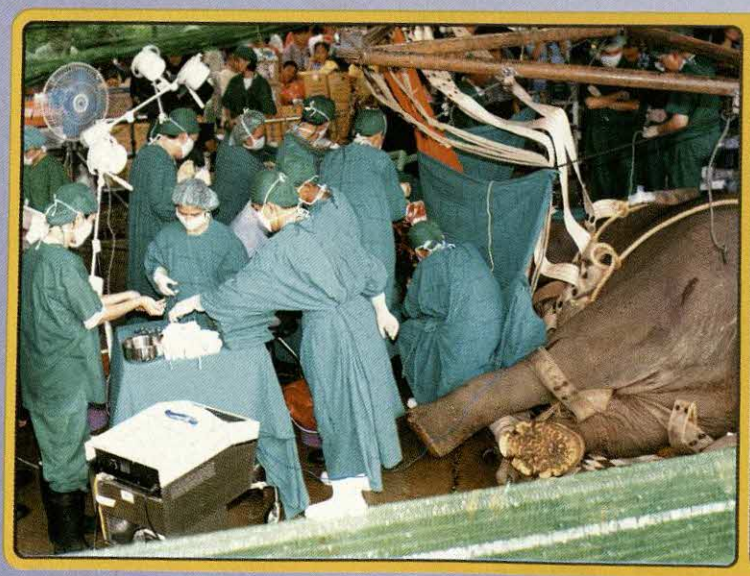
LONGEST INTERVAL BETWEEN CHILDREN
The longest interval between the birth of two children to the same mother is 41 years 185 days. Elizabeth Ann Buttle of Cwmann, Carmarthenshire, UK, gave birth to Belinda on 19 May 1956 and Joseph on 20 Nov 1997, aged 60.

SHORTEST INTERVAL BETWEEN CHILDREN
The shortest interval between the birth of two children in separate confinements is 209 days. Margaret Blake of Luton, Beds, UK, gave birth to Conor on 27 March 1995 and Bunty on 23 Oct 1995.

OLDEST MOTHERS
Rosanna Dalla Corta of Viterbo, Italy, is reported to have given birth to a baby boy at the age of 63 in July 1994.

Arceli Keh is also said to have been 63 when she gave birth in 1996, at the University of Southern California, USA.

LONGEST OPERATION
An operation carried out in Chicago, Illinois, USA, to remove a cyst from one of the



⊙ MOST VETS INVOLVED IN ONE PROCEDURE
Over 30 vets worked together during an operation on Motola, a 38-year-old cow elephant whose left foot was destroyed after she stepped on a land mine. The procedure took place at the Hang Chat Elephant Hospital in Lampang, Thailand, in Aug 1999. The vets used enough anaesthetic to knock out 70 humans.

⊙ YOUNGEST MULTI-ORGAN TRANSPLANT PATIENT

Sarah Marshall from Cobourg, Ontario, Canada, was just 5 months 24 days old when she was given a new liver, bowel, stomach and pancreas at the Children's Hospital in London, Ontario, on 7 Aug 1997. Sarah had been born suffering from the rare condition megacystis-microcolon-intestinal hypoperistalsis syndrome.

ovaries of patient Gertrude Levandowski lasted for a record-breaking 96 hours from 4 to 8 Feb 1951. Mrs Levandowski's weight fell from 280 kg (44 st) to 140 kg (22 st) in the course of the operation.

MOST OPERATIONS ENDURED

From 22 July 1954 to the end of 1994, Charles Jensen of Chester, South Dakota, USA, had 970 operations to remove tumours associated with basal cell naevus syndrome.

EARLIEST HEART TRANSPLANT

The first ever heart transplant was performed at the Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa, on 3 Dec 1967 by a team headed by Prof Christiaan Barnard. The patient, 55-year-old Louis Washkansky, survived for 18 days after the operation.

EARLIEST HAND TRANSPLANT

On 24 Sept 1998 an international team of eight surgeons in Lyon, France, performed the world's first hand transplant when they stitched the hand of a dead man to the wrist of 48-year-old Australian Clint Hallam. Hallam had lost his hand in a chainsaw accident nine years previously. The 14-hour operation involved attaching bones in the new hand to exposed bones in Hallam's wrist, fixing them using a metal plate with screws, and then connecting the arteries, veins, nerves, muscles and tendons.

BIGGEST GALL BLADDER REMOVED

On 15 March 1989 Prof Bimal C Ghosh of the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, USA, removed a gall bladder weighing 10.4 kg (23 lb) from a 69-year-old woman. The patient made a full recovery.

MOST ORGANS TRANSPLANTED

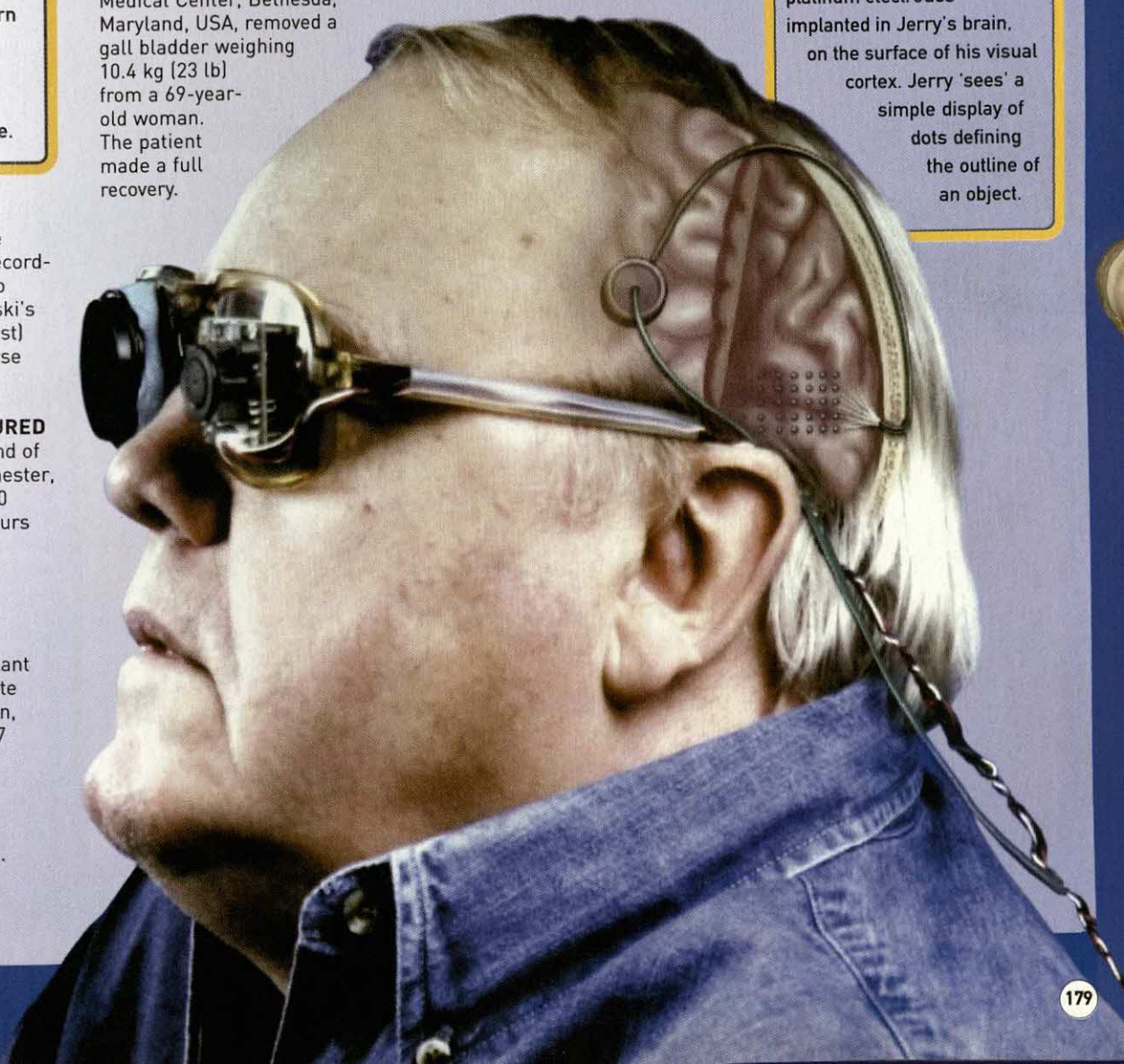
Daniel Canal of Miami, Florida, USA, received his third set of four new organs in June 1998. He was given a new stomach, liver, pancreas and small intestine at Jackson Children's Hospital, Miami, three times in a little over a month, when the first two sets were rejected. The surgeon was Dr Andreas Tzakis.

YOUNGEST PATIENT TO UNDERGO A TRANSPLANT

On 8 Nov 1996 one-hour-old Cheyenne Pyle became the youngest transplant patient ever when she received a heart at Jackson Children's Hospital, Miami, Florida, USA.

↓ FIRST ARTIFICIAL EYE

On 17 Jan 2000 it was announced that a patient, known only as 'Jerry', who lost his sight 36 years ago can see again thanks to an artifical eye developed by US eye specialist William Dobelle. Dobelle has created a pair of spectacles attached to a miniature camera and an ultrasonic rangefinder, which feed signals to a computer worn on Jerry's waistband. This computer then processes the video and distance data and sends it to another computer, which in turn transmits it to 68 platinum electrodes implanted in Jerry's brain, on the surface of his visual cortex. Jerry 'sees' a simple display of dots defining the outline of an object.



Environment & Ecology 1

MOST CHEMICALLY POLLUTED TOWN
The Russian town of Dzerzhinsk, which has a population of 285,000, is home to dozens of factories that produce chlorine, pesticides and, in the past, chemical weapons. The Kaprolaktam plant in particular emits 600 tonnes (590 tons) of vinyl chlorine, a carcinogenic gas, every year. Greenpeace has declared Dzerzhinsk the site of the worst chemical pollution in Russia and its lake the most poisonous in the world. Average life expectancy in the town is just 42 for men and 47 for women.

MOST POLLUTED MAJOR CITY
Mexico City, Mexico, has levels of sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone and suspended atmospheric particulate matter more than double those deemed acceptable by the World Health Organization (WHO). The city also has high levels of lead and nitrogen dioxide pollution.

LOWEST OZONE LEVELS
The world's lowest ever ozone levels within the ozone layer were recorded between 9 and 14 Oct 1993 over the South Pole, Antarctica, when a reading of 91 Dobson units (DU) was obtained. A figure of at least 300 DU is needed to shield the Earth from solar ultraviolet radiation and to sustain biological systems as we know them.

⊙ WORST LAND POLLUTION
From Feb to Oct 1994 thousands of tonnes of crude oil flowed across the Arctic tundra of the Komi Republic, Russia. An estimated 100,000 tonnes (98,400 tons) of oil leaked in a spillage that was 18 km (11.2 miles) long.

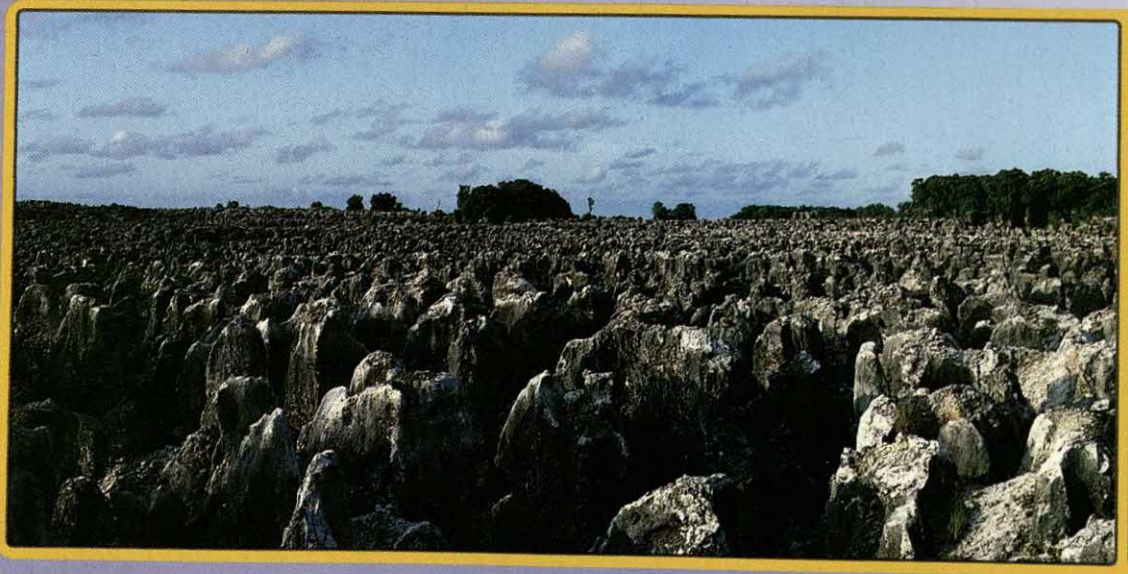
HIGHEST CO2 EMISSIONS
The USA has the highest carbon dioxide emissions of any country. In 1995 (the most recent year for which figures are available) 5.5 billion tonnes (5.4 billion tons) of the gas were emitted, equivalent to 20.5 tonnes (20.2 tons) per capita.

The biggest emitter of carbon dioxide in relation to population is the United Arab Emirates. A total of 30.1 tonnes (29.6 tons) per capita was emitted in 1995.

WORST MERCURY POLLUTION
Between 1932 and 1967 a fertilizer factory in Minamata Bay, Kyushu, Japan, managed by Shin Nippon Chisso Co Ltd, deposited methyl mercury compound into the sea. Up to 4,500 people were seriously harmed and 900 died as a result of the factory's actions.

WORST RIVER POLLUTION
In Nov 1986 firefighters fighting a blaze at the Sandoz chemical works in Basel, Switzerland, flushed a total of 30 tonnes (29.5 tons) of agricultural chemicals into the river Rhine, killing 500,000 fish.

WORST OIL TANKER DISASTER
When the *Atlantic Empress* collided with the *Aegean Captain* off the coast of Tobago on 19 July 1979, 280,000 tonnes (275,520 tons) of oil were spilt into the Caribbean Sea.



⊙ MOST MINING DAMAGE TO AN ISLAND
The 21-km² (8-mile²) Pacific island-state of Nauru is covered by beds of phosphate, derived from rich deposits of guano. The whole of the centre of the island has been mined, producing a 'lunar landscape', with only a narrow strip of coast still under vegetation. The deposits will be worked out by around 2010.

WORST NUCLEAR REACTOR DISASTER
The world's worst ever nuclear reactor disaster took place at Chernobyl No 4 in the USSR (now Ukraine) on 26 April 1986. Contamination was experienced over an area of 28,000 km² (10,900 miles²) and about 1.7 million people were exposed to varying amounts of radiation. The official death toll in the immediate aftermath of the disaster was 31, but no systematic records have been kept of fatalities since then.

MOST LETHAL SMOG
From 4–9 Dec 1952 between 3,500 and 4,000 people, mainly children and the elderly, died in London, UK, from acute bronchitis caused by inhaling thick smog.

MOST DEVASTATING AIR POLLUTION
More than 6,300 people have died from the effects of a poisonous cloud of methyl isocyanate that escaped from Union Carbide's pesticide plant near Bhopal, India, on 3 Dec 1984. The company made a settlement of $321 million (£293 million) to compensate victims and their relatives.

BIGGEST TOXIC CLOUD
In Sept 1990 a fire at a factory handling beryllium in Ust Kamenogorsk, USSR (now Kazakhstan), released a toxic cloud that extended at least as far as the Chinese border, more than 300 km (186 miles) away.

BIGGEST LAKE SHRINKAGE
The lake that has shrunk the most in recent times is the Aral Sea, which lies on the border between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. It decreased in size from 68,000 km² (26,300 miles²) in 1950 to 66,000 km² (25,500 miles²) in 1960, 35,000 km² (13,500 miles²) in 1990 and 26,800 km² (10,500 miles²) in 1994, by which time it had divided into two smaller bodies of water. The lake's shrinkage is almost entirely due to the extraction of water from the major rivers that feed it, for irrigation purposes.

MOST ACIDIC RAIN
A pH reading of 2.83 was recorded over the Great Lakes in the USA and Canada in 1982. By contrast, most rainwater has a pH of 5.6. A neutral reading is pH 7.0.

↓ BIGGEST CONSUMER OF ENERGY
The USA is the world's largest consumer of both fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas) and of commercial energy (these plus nuclear and hydro power). In 1998 it consumed a total of 1.937 million tonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe) of fossil fuels and 2.147 Mtoe of commercial energy.

Environment & Ecology 2

MOST PAPER RECYCLED
In Germany, between 70 and 80% of paper and cardboard is recycled after use.

MOST ORGANICALLY-FARMED LAND
An estimated 10% of the land in Austria is farmed organically.

HIGHEST SOLAR ENERGY USE PER CAPITA
In relation to its population, Switzerland uses more solar energy than any other country in the world, with 1.82 W per capita used in 1999. It is followed by Germany, with 0.71 W per capita and Japan, with 0.65 W per capita.

MOST SOLAR-POWERED WATER HEATERS PER CAPITA
More than 80% of Israeli buildings contain solar-powered water heaters, amounting to one solar-powered water heater for every 10 people.

MOST ECO-FRIENDLY CAR RENTAL FIRM
Kobe-Eco-Car, which was established on 30 Jan 1998 in Kobe, Japan, is the world's first company dedicated to the rental of environmentally-friendly vehicles. The firm currently has a total of 53 vehicles for hire, comprising electric vehicles, compressed natural gas vehicles and hybrid cars.

BEST-SELLING HYBRID CAR
To date, over 30,000 Toyota Prius hybrid cars have been sold in Japan. The Prius, which was launched on 14 Oct 1997, is a hybrid-powertrain vehicle combining a 1.5-litre gasoline engine with a generator that halves emissions, cuts smog chemicals by up to 90% and goes twice as far as a standard car on 1 litre (0.3 gal) of fuel. During one Japanese test cycle, the car achieved a fuel consumption of 32 km/litre (77 mpg).

MOST ECO-FRIENDLY PETROL-POWERED CAR
The SULEV-rated (Super Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle) Accord EX Sedan, developed by Honda, has the lowest emission levels of any petrol-powered car. A SULEV engine emits only 1 kg (2.3 lb) of ozone-forming hydrocarbons per 161,000 km (100,000 miles) of driving, or 86% less than a Low Emission Vehicle (LEV).

⊙ HIGHEST GLASS RECYCLING RATE
Switzerland leads the world in recycling glass, with an estimated 91% of all glass products sold in the country being recycled after use. It is closely followed by Austria and the Netherlands, both of which recycle over 80% of all disposable glass.

RAREST LIVING CREATURE
The world's rarest living creature is the Abingdon Island giant tortoise (*Geochelone elephantopus abingdoni*), which is represented by just one specimen, an aged male named Lonesome George. As there is virtually no hope of discovering another specimen, this particular subspecies is now effectively extinct.

⊙ MOST ENERGY-EFFICIENT SUPERMARKET
A 3,250 m² (35,000 ft²) supermarket in Greenwich, London, UK, operated by J Sainsbury plc, has heating and electricity bills that are 50% lower than those of a normal supermarket of equivalent size. The store has a number of energy-saving features, including an on-site combined heat and power plant, wind turbines and photovoltaic cells.

RAREST LAND MAMMAL
The Javan rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) is the world's rarest land mammal. The species has been decimated by the use of its horns in traditional Oriental medicines and, to a lesser extent, by the destruction of its habitats. There are now an estimated 60 specimens remaining in Indonesia and Vietnam.

RAREST MARINE MAMMAL
The baiji or Yangtze river dolphin (*Lipotes vexillifer*), which lives mainly in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, China, has an estimated population of just 150.

⊙ BIGGEST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT
The current $8-billion (£5-billion) project to restore as much as possible of the Everglades wetlands, Florida, USA, is the biggest ecological restoration project in history. The Everglades are the largest remaining sub-tropical wilderness in the USA.

← RAREST BIRD OF PREY
Only 61 Californian condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*), most of which were bred in captivity, exist in the wild, with about 99 in captivity as of April 2000.

Natural Disasters

MOST PEOPLE KILLED IN AN EARTHQUAKE
An earthquake that struck the Shaanxi, Shanxi and Henan provinces of China on 2 Feb 1556 is believed to have killed approximately 830,000 people.

The highest death toll in modern times was caused by a quake that hit Tangshan, China, on 28 July 1976. The official figure of 655,237 deaths was adjusted to 750,000 and then to 242,000.

MOST DAMAGE CAUSED BY AN EARTHQUAKE
An earthquake that hit the Kanto Plain, Japan, on 1 Sept 1923 destroyed an estimated 575,000 dwellings in Tokyo and Yokohama. The official total of people killed and missing in the quake and its resultant fires was 142,807.

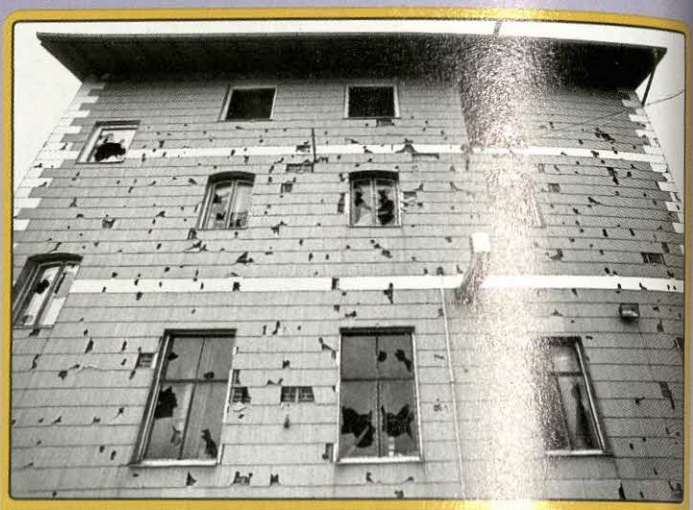
MOST PEOPLE MADE HOMELESS BY AN EARTHQUAKE
More than 1 million people in an 8,800-km² (3,400-mile²) area of Guatemala were made homeless on 4 Feb 1976 when an earthquake ripped along the Montagua Fault, the boundary between the Caribbean and North American plates.

MOST PEOPLE KILLED BY A HURRICANE
A hurricane that hit the Ganges Delta Islands, Bangladesh, between 12 and 13 Nov 1970 killed an estimated 1 million people.

MOST DAMAGE CAUSED BY A HURRICANE
Hurricane Andrew, which hit Homestead, Florida, USA, between 23 and 26 Aug 1992, caused an estimated $15.5 billion (£8.8 billion) worth of damage.

MOST PEOPLE KILLED BY A FLOOD
An estimated 900,000 people were killed when the Huang He (Yellow River), Huayan Kou, China, burst its banks in Oct 1887.

MOST DAMAGE CAUSED BY A FLOOD
According to official figures, 890,000 dwellings were destroyed when the Hwai and Yangtze rivers in eastern China flooded in Aug 1950. In addition, 1.4 million ha (3.5 million acres) of land in the area was left untillable for the entire planting season, causing further hardship.



⊙ MOST DAMAGE CAUSED BY A HAILSTORM
A hailstorm that struck Munich, Germany, in July 1984 caused an estimated $1 billion (£750 million) worth of damage to trees, buildings and motor vehicles.

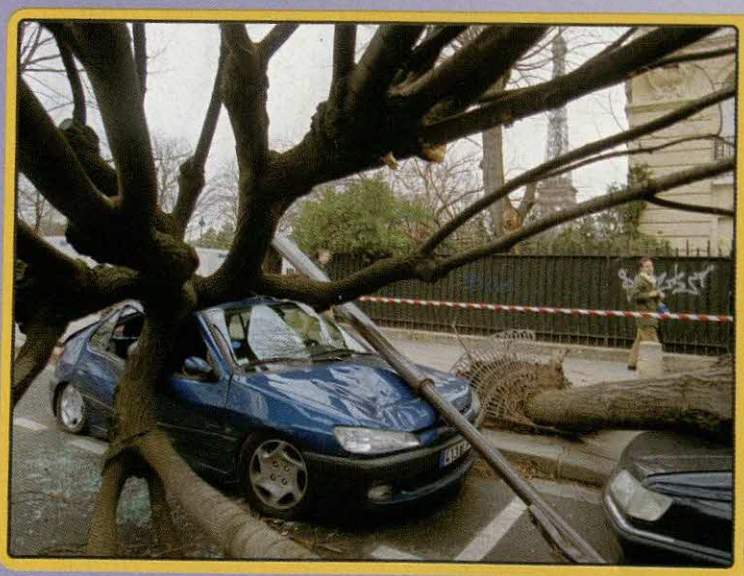
MOST PEOPLE MADE HOMELESS BY A FLOOD
Monsoon rains in India's West Bengal State in Sept 1978 caused extensive river flooding which rendered 15 million people homeless.

MOST PEOPLE KILLED IN A TYPHOON
Approximately 10,000 people were killed when a violent typhoon with winds of up to 160 km/h (100 mph) struck Hong Kong on 18 Sept 1906.

MOST PEOPLE MADE HOMELESS BY A TYPHOON
An estimated 3.12 million people lost their homes when Typhoon Ike struck the Philippines on 2 Sept 1984, killing 1,363 and injuring a further 300.

MOST PEOPLE KILLED BY A TSUNAMI
Approximately 27,000 people were drowned when a tsunami hit the west coast of Japan in 1896.

MOST PEOPLE KILLED BY A CYCLONE
Between 300,000 and 500,000 people were estimated to have died when a cyclone hit East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) on 12 Nov 1970. Winds of up to



⊙ MOST TREES DESTROYED IN A STORM
A total of 270 million trees were felled or split by a storm that hit France on 26 and 27 Dec 1999. The storm lasted for 30 hours, causing 87 deaths and an estimated $8 billion (£5 billion) worth of damage. In Paris, the Bois de Boulogne and the Bois de Vincennes lost a total of 140,000 trees between them, while around 10,000 trees were felled in the Versailles palace grounds.

⊙ MOST DEVASTATING MONSOONS

Monsoons that swept through Thailand between Sept and Dec 1983 killed around 10,000 people and caused more than $400 million (£264 million) worth of damage. Up to 100,000 people contracted waterborne diseases and 15,000 people were evacuated from their homes.

241 km/h (150 mph) and a 15-m-high (50-ft) tidal wave lashed the coast, the Ganges Delta and the islands of Bhola, Hatia, Kukri Mukri, Manpura and Rangabali.

MOST PEOPLE KILLED BY A GEYSER
In Aug 1903 four people were killed when Waimangu geyser in New Zealand erupted. The victims, standing 27 m (89 ft) away, were blown distances of up to 800 m (2,625 ft).

MOST DAMAGING ICE STORM
From 6 to 14 Jan 1998 an ice storm wreaked havoc across eastern Canada and adjoining parts of the USA, shutting down airports and train stations, blocking roads and cutting off power to 3 million people. Tens of thousands of pylons were toppled and the entire commercial and business centre of Montreal was blacked out. The total cost of the damage was estimated at $650 million (£403 million).

MOST PEOPLE KILLED IN A LANDSLIDE
On 31 May 1970 more than 18,000 people were killed by a landslide on the slopes of Mt Huascarán in the Yungay region of Peru, making it the most devastating landslide on record.

MOST DAMAGE CAUSED BY A LANDSLIDE
A series of landslides in California, USA, in Jan 1969 resulted in damage worth $138 million (£58 million).

MOST PEOPLE KILLED BY A VOLCANIC ERUPTION
A total of 92,000 people were killed when the Tambora volcano in Sumbawa, Indonesia (then Dutch East Indies), erupted in April 1815.

MOST PEOPLE KILLED IN A FAMINE
Between 1959 and 1961 approximately 40 million people died of starvation in northern China.

MOST PEOPLE KILLED BY DROUGHT
An estimated 500,000 people died of starvation in the Sahel, Sub-Saharan Africa, following droughts in the region during 1984 and 1985.

COSTLIEST NATURAL DISASTER
The earthquake that struck Kobe, Japan, in Jan 1995 caused record losses of $100 billion (£63.7 billion).

⊙ MOST PEOPLE MADE HOMELESS BY A HURRICANE

Hurricane Mitch, which struck Central America between 26 Oct and 4 Nov 1998, caused 9,745 deaths and destroyed 93,690 dwellings, leaving approximately 2.5 million people dependent on international aid efforts. The hurricane, which reached a maximum speed of 290 km/h (180 mph), gathered strength over the Caribbean Sea before hitting the coast of Honduras and moving slowly inland, touching the El Salvador–Honduras border before heading into Guatemala. It was finally downgraded to a tropical storm after entering the southern Gulf of Mexico.

Football 1

MOST MATCHES PLAYED
Peter Shilton (England) made a record 1,390 senior appearances in the course of his career. These included 1,005 appearances in the English League: 286 for Leicester City (1966–74); 110 for Stoke City (1974–77); 202 for Nottingham Forest (1977–82); 188 for Southampton (1982–87); 175 for Derby County (1987–92); 34 for Plymouth Argyle (1992–94); one for Bolton Wanderers (1995); and nine for Leyton Orient (1996–97). He also played in one League play-off, 86 FA Cup matches, 102 League Cup matches, 125 full internationals, 13 Under-23 matches, four Football League XI matches and 53 various European and other club competitions.

MOST GOALS IN A CAREER
The most goals scored in a specified period is 1,279, by Pelé (Edson Arantes do Nascimento) in 1,363 games for Brazil, Santos and the New York Cosmos from 7 Sept 1956 to 1 Oct 1977. His best year was 1959, when he scored 126 goals, and the *Milesimo* (1,000th) came during his 909th first-class match on 19 Nov 1969, when he scored a penalty for his club Santos at the Maracanã Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. After retirement he scored two further goals in special appearances.

MOST GOALS IN A MATCH
The highest score in a first-class match is 36, a record set when Arbroath beat Bon Accord 36–0 in a Scottish Cup match on 5 Sept 1885. Seven further goals were disallowed for offside.

The most goals scored by one player in a first-class match is 16, by Stephan Stanis for Racing Club de Lens v Aubry-Asturies in a wartime French Cup game in Lens, France, on 13 Dec 1942.

LONGEST CLEAN SHEET
The longest period that any goalkeeper has prevented goals being scored past him in top-class competition is 1,275 min, by Abel Resino of Atlético Madrid, Spain, to 17 Mar 1991.

MOST GOALS SCORED BY A GOALKEEPER
José Luis Chilavert (Paraguay and Vélez Sarsfield of Argentina) scored a record 49 official and international goals between July 1992 and March 2000.

⊙ HEAVIEST PLAYER
The biggest player in representative football was the England international goalkeeper Willie Henry 'Fatty' Foulke (1874–1916), who was 1.90 m (6 ft 3 in) tall and weighed up to 165 kg (26 st). He once stopped a game by snapping the crossbar.

MOST CONSECUTIVE HAT-TRICKS
The most consecutive top division games in which a player has scored hat-tricks is four. Masashi Nakayama, who plays for Jubilo Iwata in the Japanese League, scored five goals v Cerezo Osaka at Nagai Stadium on 15 April 1998; four goals v Sanfrecce Hiroshima at Jubilo Iwata Stadium on 18 April 1998; four goals v Avispa Fukuoka at Kumamoto City Stadium on 25 April 1998; and three goals v Consadole Sapporo at Jubilo Iwata Stadium on 29 April 1998.

⊙ HIGHEST-SCORING DRAW
On 7 Aug 1999 Racing Genk drew 6-6 with Westerlo in the Belgian league. Genk's Branko Strupar (in blue) scored three penalties and Westerlo's Toni Brogno claimed four goals, two of them from the spot. The record was equalled on 19 March 2000, when Gimnasia y Esgrima de la Plata played Colón de Santa Fe in the Argentine league.

FASTEST GOAL
Ricardo Olivera scored just 2.8 seconds after the start of play for Río Negro against Soriano at José Enrique Rodó, Soriano, Uruguay, on 26 Dec 1998 – the fastest goal in first-class football.

MOST WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS
The record for wins in the World Club Championship, contested between the winners of the European Cup and the Copa Libertadores, is three, held jointly by Peñarol of Uruguay (1961, 1966, 1982); Nacional of Uruguay (1971, 1980, 1988); and AC Milan of Italy (1969, 1989, 1990).

MOST EUROPEAN CUPS
The European Cup, contested since 1956 by the winners of the European leagues, has been won a record eight times by Real Madrid of Spain (1956–60, 1966, 1998, 2000).

MOST COPA LIBERTADORES WINS
The Copa Libertadores, contested since 1960 by the winners of the South American leagues, has been won seven times by Club Atlético Independiente of Argentina (1964–5, 1972–5, 1984).

⊙ MOST VALUABLE FOOTBALL CLUB
Manchester United, in the English Premier League, has a market capitalization value of £935 million ($1.48 billion). The club won 14 major trophies in the 1990s, thanks to players such as David Beckham (above), Eric Cantona and Peter Schmeichel.

MOST CUP-WINNERS CUPS
The Cup-Winners Cup, contested until 1999 by the winners of the national cups in Europe, was won a record four times by Barcelona (1979, 1982, 1989, 1997).

MOST CUP OF CHAMPION CLUBS WINS
The Cup of Champion Clubs, contested since 1964 by the winners of the African leagues, has been won four times by Zamalek of Egypt (1984, 1986, 1993 and 1996).

← MOST EXPENSIVE PLAYER
The highest transfer fee quoted for a player is a reported $45 million (£28 million) for striker Christian Vieri (Italy), who moved between the Italian clubs Lazio and Internazionale in June 1999. Vieri, who grew up in Australia, has also played for Atlético Madrid (Spain) and Juventus.

MOST EXPENSIVE DEFENDER
In May 1998 defender Jaap Stam was sold by PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) to Manchester United (England) for a record £10.75 million ($18 million). The seven-year deal was worth £11 million ($18.3 million) to the Dutch international, then 26 years old.

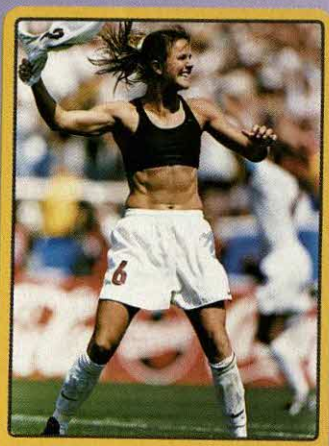
MOST VALUABLE SUBSTITUTES BENCH
For a game against Celta Vigo on 9 Jan 2000, FC Barcelona coach Louis Van Gaal named Pep Guardiola, Sergi Barjuan, Ruud Hesp, Frederic Dehu, Frank and Ronald de Boer and Rivaldo as substitutes, creating a sub's bench laden with over $160 million (£100 million) worth of talent. Of the players named, only Rivaldo played.

Football 2

MOST GOALS IN AN INTERNATIONAL
The most goals scored in a senior men's international is 20, when Kuwait beat Bhutan 20-0 in Kuwait on 14 Feb 2000.

The most goals scored by one player in an international match is 10, by Sofus Nielsen for Denmark v France (17–1) in the 1908 Olympics; and by Gottfried Fuchs for Germany v Russia (16–0) in the 1912 Olympics.

The highest score in a women's international is 21–0, by Japan v Guam at Guangzhou, China, on 5 Dec 1997; by Canada v Puerto Rico at Toronto, Canada, on 28 Aug 1998; by Australia v American Samoa at Auckland, New Zealand, on 9 Oct 1998; and by New Zealand v Samoa, also at Auckland, New Zealand, on 9 Oct 1998.



⊙ MOST WOMEN'S WORLD CUP WINS
The USA has won two of the three women's World Cup tournaments held since 1991, in 1991 and 1999. The most recent final ended with a penalty shootout, with Brandi Chastain (above) scoring the decisive goal.

LONGEST INTERNATIONAL CLEAN SHEET
The longest period that a goalkeeper has prevented goals from being scored in international matches is 1,142 minutes, by Dino Zoff (Italy) from Sept 1972 to June 1974.

MOST WORLD CUP WINS
Brazil have won four of the 16 World Cup tournaments held to date (1958, 1962, 1970 and 1994).

Edson Arantes do Nascimento, known as Pelé (Brazil), is the only player to have been in three World Cup-winning teams, in 1958, 1962 and 1970.

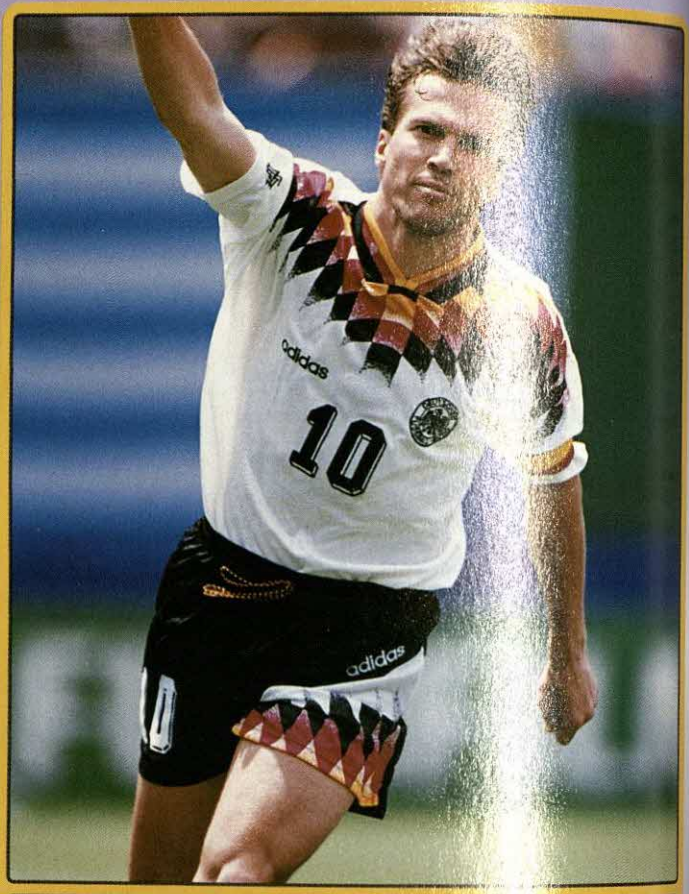
HIGHEST SCORE IN A WORLD CUP GAME
The highest score in a match during the finals stages of the World Cup is 10, by Hungary v El Salvador (10–1) at Elche, Spain, on 15 June 1982.

The highest aggregate score in the finals tournament is 12, a record set when Austria beat Switzerland 7–5 at Lausanne, Switzerland, on 26 June 1954.

The highest score in any World Cup game is 17–0, when Iran beat The Maldives in a qualifying match played in Damascus, Syria, on 2 June 1997.

MOST WORLD CUP FINALS APPEARANCES
The record for appearances in finals tournaments is five, held by Antonio Carbajal (Mexico) – 1950, 1954, 1958, 1962 and 1966 – and Lothar Matthäus (Germany) – 1982, 1986, 1990, 1994 and 1998. Matthäus played in a record 25 games.

YOUNGEST AND OLDEST WORLD CUP PLAYERS
The youngest footballer to play in a finals match is Norman Whiteside, who was 17 years 41 days old when he played for Northern Ireland against Yugoslavia on 17 June 1982.



⊙ MOST CAPS
The greatest number of appearances for a national team, as recognized by FIFA, is 144, by Lothar Matthäus (Germany) from 1980 to 2000.

The youngest scorer in a finals match is Pelé, who was 17 years 239 days old when he scored for Brazil against Wales at Gothenburg, Sweden, on 19 June 1958.

The oldest participant in the World Cup is Roger Milla, who was 42 years 39 days old when he played for Cameroon against Russia on 28 June 1994. During this match, he scored his team's only goal, also making him the oldest ever scorer in the finals.

BIGGEST WORLD CUP ATTENDANCES
The greatest recorded crowd at a World Cup match (and the largest at any football match) was 199,854, for Brazil v Uruguay at the Maracanã Municipal Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 16 July 1950. Uruguay won this, the deciding match of the tournament, 2–1.

The greatest aggregate number of spectators for a tournament is 3,587,538, for the 52 matches in the 1994 World Cup in the USA.

MOST OLYMPIC GAMES WINS
The record for wins in Olympic soccer tournaments is three, held by Great Britain (1900, 1908 and 1912) and Hungary (1952, 1964 and 1968).

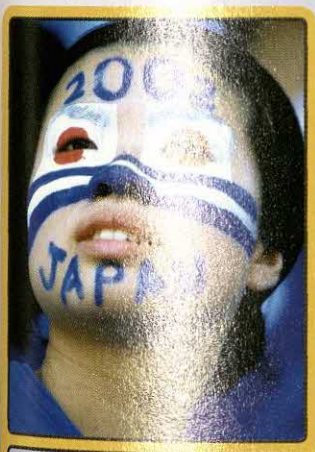
MOST SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
Argentina have won the South American Championships (Copa América since 1975) a record 15 times (1916, 1921, 1925, 1927, 1929, 1937, 1941, 1945–47, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1991 and 1993).

MOST EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
Germany have won the European Championships a record three times, in 1972, 1980 and 1996 (the first two as West Germany).

MOST CONCACAF CHAMPIONSHIPS
Costa Rica have won the CONCACAF Championships (CONCACAF Gold Cup since 1991) 10 times (1941, 1946, 1948, 1953, 1955, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1969 and 1989).

MOST ASIAN CUP WINS
The record for Asian Cup wins is three, held by Iran (1968, 1972, 1976) and Saudi Arabia (1984, 1988, 1996).

MOST AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS WINS
The record for wins in the African Cup Of Nations is four, held by Ghana (1963, 1965, 1978, 1982) and Egypt (1957, 1959, 1986, 1998).



⊙ WORLD CUP WITH MOST ENTRANTS
A record 198 national football federations, out of a total of 203, registered to play in qualifiers for the 17th World Cup, which will be hosted jointly by South Korea and Japan in 2002. It will be the first time the tournament has been staged in Asia.

→ MOST PENALTIES MISSED IN AN INTERNATIONAL
Martín Palermo (Argentina) missed three penalties during his team's defeat by Colombia in the 1999 Copa América in Paraguay. His first shot hit the crossbar, the second landed in the stands and the third one was saved.

Basketball

HIGHEST SCORE IN AN NBA MATCH
The highest aggregate score in an NBA match is 370, a record set when the Detroit Pistons beat the Denver Nuggets 186–184 at Denver, Colorado, USA, on 13 Dec 1983. Overtime was played after a 145–145 tie in regulation time.

The highest aggregate score in regulation time is 320. This occurred when the Golden State Warriors beat Denver 162–158 on 2 Nov 1990.

TALLEST NBA PLAYER
Romanian-born Gheorghe Muresan of the New Jersey Nets, who made his professional debut in 1994, is 2.31 m (7 ft 7 in) tall.

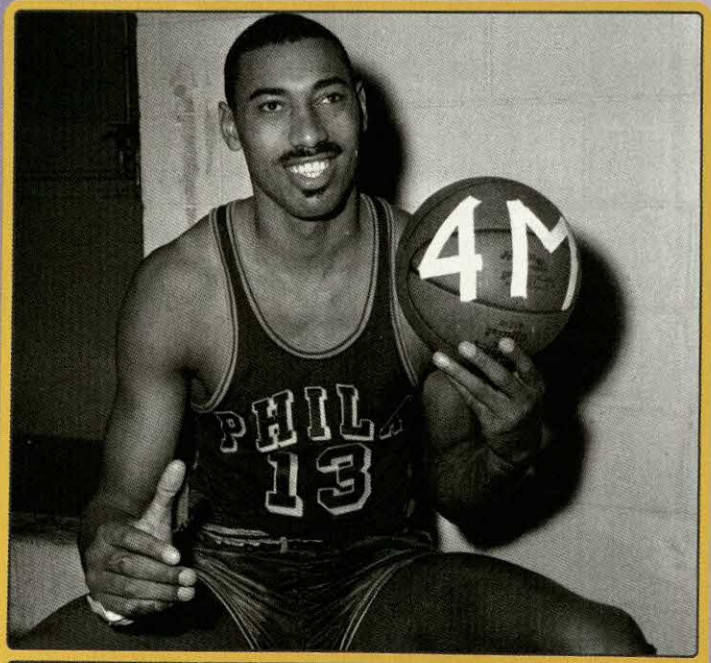
BIGGEST NBA WINNING MARGIN
The Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Miami Heat 148–80 on 17 Dec 1991 – a record 68-point margin.

MOST POINTS IN AN NBA QUARTER
The most points scored in a quarter is 58, by Buffalo at Boston, Massachusetts, USA, on 20 Oct 1972.

MOST POINTS IN AN NBA HALF
The Phoenix Suns scored a record 107 points in the first half of a match against Denver on 11 Nov 1990.

YOUNGEST NBA PLAYER
Jermaine O'Neal was 18 years 53 days old when he made his professional debut for the Portland Trail Blazers, playing against the Denver Nuggets on 5 Dec 1996.

⊙ MOST WOMEN'S OLYMPIC TITLES
The record for the most women's Olympic titles is held jointly by the USA and the USSR, with three each. The USA won in 1984, 1988 and 1996, and the USSR won in 1976, 1980 and 1992 (taking the last title as the Unified team of the former USSR). Kim (left) of South Korea is seen with McRae of the USA in a game played during the 1996 Olympics.



⊙ MOST POINTS IN AN NBA GAME
Wilt 'The Stilt' Chamberlain scored 100 points for Philadelphia against New York at Hershey, Pennsylvania, USA, on 2 March 1962. This included a record 36 field goals and 28 free throws, as well as a record 59 points in a half. Chamberlain died on 12 Oct 1999.

MOST POINTS IN AN NBA SEASON
In the 1961/62 season Wilt Chamberlain scored a record 4,029 points for Philadelphia. He also set season records for the highest scoring average (50.4 per game) and for field goals (1,597).

MOST POINTS IN AN NBA CAREER
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (originally Lew Alcindor), who played for the Milwaukee Bucks from 1969 to 1975 and the Los Angeles Lakers from 1975 to 1989, scored a record 38,387 points during his career – an average of 24.6 points per game. This included 14,437 field goals in regular season games and 5,762 points and 2,356 field goals in play-off games.

HIGHEST NBA CAREER AVERAGE
The highest career average for players exceeding 10,000 points is 31.5, by Michael Jordan, who scored 29,277 points in 930 games for the Chicago Bulls between 1984 and 1998. Jordan also holds the record for the highest career average in play-off games, at 33.4 (5,987 points scored in 179 games from 1984 to 1998).

MOST NBA TITLES
The Boston Celtics have won a record-breaking 16 NBA titles: in 1957, from 1959 to 1966, and in 1968, 1969, 1974, 1976, 1981, 1984 and 1986.

LONGEST NBA CAREER (MINUTES)
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar played for a total of 57,446 minutes in the course of his career. He also took part in the most play-off games – a record 237.

MOST NBA GAMES PLAYED IN A SEASON
The record for the greatest number of complete games played in one season is 79, by Wilt Chamberlain for Philadelphia in 1961/62. During this period he was on court for a record 3,882 minutes.

MOST WINS IN AN NBA SEASON
The Chicago Bulls had a record 72 wins in the 1995/96 season.

MOST CONSECUTIVE NBA WINS
The Los Angeles Lakers won 33 games in succession from 5 Nov 1971 through to 7 Jan 1972.

MOST LOSSES IN AN NBA SEASON
In the 1972/73 season the Philadelphia 76ers lost a record 73 out of 82 games. This total included a 20-game losing streak.

LONGEST GAME
The longest game of basketball lasted for a record-breaking 24 hours and was played by the Suncoast Clippers at Maroochydore Eagles Basketball Stadium, Queensland, Australia, from 21 to 22 Nov 1998.

HIGHEST SLAM DUNK
Michael 'Wild Thing' Wilson of the Harlem Globetrotters slam-dunked a regulation basketball through a goal set at a height of 3.65 m (12 ft) at Conseco Fieldhouse, Indiana, USA, on 1 Apr 2000.

MOST FREE THROWS
Jim Connolly (USA) holds the records for the most successful free throws in both one minute (35) and in 10 minutes (280). The records were set at St Peter's School, Pacifica, California, USA, on 10 and 12 Oct 1998 respectively.

MOST BALLS DRIBBLED
Joseph Odhiambo of Mesa, Arizona, USA, has the unique ability to dribble five basketballs at the same time.

LONGEST DRIBBLE
Over a 24-hour period in May 1998, Jamie Borges (USA) dribbled a basketball a distance of 155.9 km (96.89 miles) without 'travelling' (carrying the ball without dribbling). The record was set at Barrington High School, Rhode Island, USA.

MOST BALLS SPUN
Michael Kettman of St Augustine, Florida, USA, simultaneously spun 28 regulation basketballs on a specially designed frame for five seconds on 25 May 1999.

BIGGEST CROWD
A record 80,000 spectators turned out to watch the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup between AEK Athens and Slavia Prague at the Olympic Stadium, Athens, Greece, on 4 April 1968.

MOST WORLD TITLES
Yugoslavia have won four men's World Championship titles: in 1970, 1978, 1990 and 1998.

The most women's World Championship titles won is six, by the USSR (in 1959, 1964, 1967, 1971, 1975 and 1983); and by the USA (in 1953, 1957, 1979, 1986, 1990 and 1998).

MOST MEN'S OLYMPIC TITLES
The USA have won a record 11 men's Olympic titles since basketball was introduced to the Games in 1936. To date, they have lost just two of their Olympic matches, both of them to the USSR.

← MOST GAMES IN AN NBA CAREER
Robert Parish played a record 1,611 NBA regular season games over 21 seasons for the Golden State Warriors (1976–80), the Boston Celtics (1980–94), the Charlotte Hornets (1994–96) and the Chicago Bulls (1996–97).

Rugby

RUGBY UNION

MOST CAREER POINTS

William 'Dusty' Hare scored 7,337 points in first-class games from 1971 to 1989. Of these, 4,427 points were for Leicester, 1,800 were for Nottingham, 240 were for England, 88 were for the British Isles and 782 were scored in other representative matches.

MOST CAREER TRIES

Alan Morley (UK) scored a total of 473 tries in senior rugby matches between 1968 and 1986. This included 378 tries for Bristol, a record for one club.

MOST POINTS IN INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

Between 1991 and 2000 Neil Jenkins scored 984 points in a total of 80 matches for Wales and the British Lions.

MOST TRIES IN INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

David Campese (Australia) scored a record 64 tries in 101 international matches between 1982 and 1996.

MOST POINTS IN ONE MATCH

Jannie van der Westhuizen (South Africa) scored 94 points (14 tries, nine conversions, one dropped goal and one penalty goal) for Carnarvon when they played Williston at North West Cape, South Africa, on 11 March 1972.

MOST WORLD CUP POINTS SCORED

The leading scorer in World Cup matches is Gavin Hastings, who scored a total of 227 points in 13 games for Scotland between 1987 and 1995.

MOST CLUB APPEARANCES

Roy Evans (UK) played in a record 1,193 club games in the course of his career, always in the position of tight head prop. This total includes 1,007 games played for Osterley between Sept 1950 and April 1989.

Allan Robertshaw (UK) played in a total of 1,075 games for York.

MOST WORLD CUP APPEARANCES

Sean Fitzpatrick (New Zealand) played in 17 World Cup matches between 1987 and 1995.

HIGHEST SCORE IN A MATCH

The highest score in any match was 194–0, a record set when Comet beat fellow Danish team Lindo on 17 Nov 1973.

HIGHEST WORLD CUP SCORE

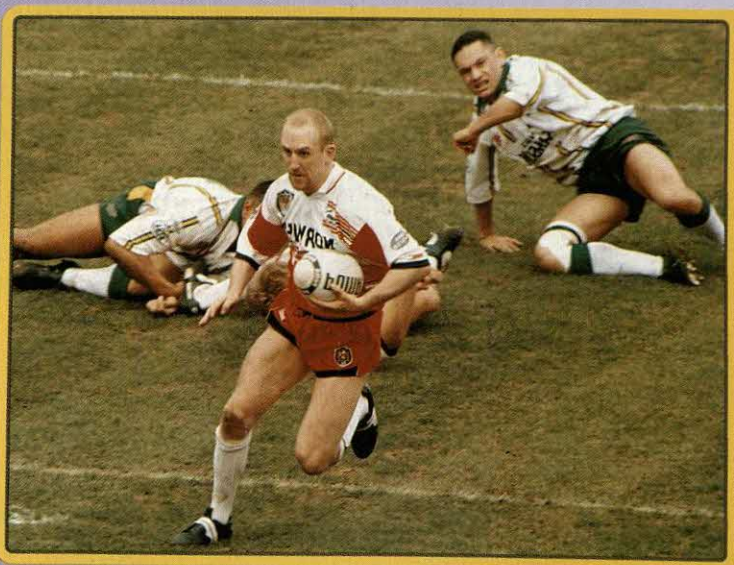
The highest score in a World Cup match occurred when New Zealand beat Japan 145–17 at Bloemfontein, South Africa, on 4 June 1995.

BIGGEST CROWD

A record 107,869 spectators turned out to watch Australia's 28–7 victory over New Zealand at Stadium Australia, Sydney, NSW, Australia, on 28 Aug 1999.

⊙ MOST HONG KONG SEVENS WINS

Fiji have won the Hong Kong Sevens a record nine times, in 1977, 1978, 1980, 1984, 1990–92, 1998 and 1999. The 1997 event was replaced by the World Cup Sevens, which Fiji also won. Waisale Serevi of Fiji (centre) is seen in action against Vaughn Going (left) and Rob Santos of Hong Kong during a World Cup Sevens match.



⊙ MOST POINTS IN A SEASON (LEAGUE)

During the 1994/95 season, Wigan scored 1,735 points in league and cup games. The club also holds the record for the most consecutive league games wins, with 31 from Feb 1970 to Feb 1971. Shaun Edwards, who played for the club between 1983 and 1997, is seen here scoring a try against Oldham in March 1995.

RUGBY LEAGUE

MOST CAREER POINTS

Neil Fox scored a record 6,220 points (2,575 goals, including four drop goals and 358 tries) in a senior Rugby League career that lasted from April 1956 to Aug 1979. Of these, 4,488 were for Wakefield Trinity, 1,089 were for five other clubs, 228 were for Great Britain, 147 were for Yorkshire and 268 were scored in other representative games.

MOST CAREER TRIES

Brian Bevan (Australia) scored a total of 796 tries in 18 seasons between 1945 and 1964. Of

these, 740 were for Warrington, 17 were for Blackpool (both UK) and 39 were scored in other representative matches.

MOST POINTS SCORED IN ONE MATCH
George Henry 'Tiger' West (UK) scored 53 points (12 goals and a record 11 tries) for Hull Kingston Rovers in a Challenge Cup tie against Brookland Rovers on 4 March 1905.

MOST POINTS SCORED IN AN INTERNATIONAL
The most points scored in an international is 32 by Andrew Johns for Australia against Fiji at Newcastle, NSW, Australia, on 12 July 1996; and by Bobby Goulding for Great Britain against Fiji at Nadi, Fiji, on 5 Oct 1996.

⊙ MOST INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES (UNION)
Philippe Sella (France) played in a total of 111 international games between 1982 and 1995, during which he scored 30 tries.

← MOST WORLD CUP WINS (UNION)
Since the Rugby Union World Cup was first contested in 1987, Australia has had a record two wins, in 1991 and 1999. Here, Tim Horan lifts the 1999 trophy following Australia's 35–12 defeat of France.

HIGHEST TRANSFER FEES
A reported £750,000 ($1.2 million) was paid by Rugby Union club Newcastle to Wigan (both UK) for Va'aiga Tuiagamala (Western Samoa) in Feb 1997.

The costliest cash-only transfer was £440,000 ($777,260), paid by Wigan to Widnes for Martin Offiah (UK) in Jan 1992.

MOST WORLD CUP WINS
Australia have won the World Cup seven times, in 1957, 1968, 1970, 1977, 1988, 1992 and 1995. They also won the International Championship of 1975.

HIGHEST SCORE IN AN INTERNATIONAL MATCH
The highest score in an international match is 86–6, a record set when Australia defeated South Africa at Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, UK, on 10 Oct 1995.

FASTEST TRIES
Lee Jackson (UK) scored a try nine seconds after kick-off for Hull against Sheffield Eagles in a Yorkshire Cup semi-final played at Sheffield, S Yorks, UK, on 6 Oct 1992.

The fastest try in an international match was scored 15 seconds after kick-off by Bobby Fulton for Australia against France at Bradford, W Yorks, UK, on 1 Nov 1970.

American Football

MOST SUPER BOWL WINS
The Super Bowl was first held in 1967 between the winners of the NFL and the AFL. The greatest number of wins is five, by the San Francisco 49ers (1982, 1985, 1989, 1990 and 1995); and by the Dallas Cowboys (1972, 1978, 1993, 1994 and 1996).

The player with the most Super Bowls wins is Charles Hayley, with five. He won two for the San Francisco 49ers (1989 and 1990) and three for the Dallas Cowboys (1993, 1994 and 1996).

HIGHEST SUPER BOWL SCORES
The records for the highest team score and the highest victory margin were set when the San Francisco 49ers beat the Denver Broncos 55–10 in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 28 Jan 1990.

The record for the highest aggregate score was set in 1995, when the San Francisco 49ers beat the San Diego Chargers 49–26.

MOST SUPER BOWL MVPS
Joe Montana, quarterback with the San Francisco 49ers, was voted Most Valuable Player (MVP) in three Super Bowls: 1982, 1985 and 1990.

MOST NFL TITLES
The Green Bay Packers have won a record 13 NFL titles: 1929–31, 1936, 1939, 1944, 1961, 1962, 1965–67, 1996 and 1997.

MOST GAMES PLAYED
George Blanda played in a record 340 NFL games in 26 seasons: for the Chicago Bears (1949–58); the Baltimore Colts (1950); the Houston Oilers (1960–66) and the Oakland Raiders (1967–75).

The most consecutive games played is 282, by Jim Marshall (Cleveland Browns, 1960 and Minnesota Vikings, 1961–79).

MOST POINTS
George Blanda scored a record 2,002 points for the Chicago Bears, Baltimore Colts, Houston Oilers and Oakland Raiders between 1949 and 1975.

The most points scored in a season is 176, by Paul Hornung (Green Bay Packers) in 1960.

The record for one game is 40, by Ernie Nevers for the Chicago Cardinals v the Chicago Bears on 28 Nov 1929.

HIGHEST SCORES
On 7 Oct 1916 Georgia Tech of Atlanta scored 222 points, including a record 32 touchdowns, against Cumberland University of Lebanon, Tennessee, who failed to score.

The highest score in an NFL game is 73, by the Chicago Bears v the Washington Redskins (0) in the 1940 NFL Championship game in Washington, DC, on 8 Dec 1940.

⊙ MOST VALUABLE NFL FRANCHISES
According to *Forbes* magazine, the most valuable NFL franchise is that of the Dallas Cowboys (above), which was worth $663 million (£439 million) in Sept 1999. However, in May 2000 the Washington Redskins' franchise was sold for $800 million (£529 million).

⊙ MOST TOUCHDOWNS
Jerry Rice (San Francisco 49ers) made 180 touchdowns in NFL games between 1985 and 1999. He also holds the Super Bowl career records for touchdowns (seven), yards gained receiving (512) and pass receptions (28).

The highest score in a regular season game is 72, by the Washington Redskins v the New York Giants (41) in Washington on 27 Nov 1966. The aggregate score of 113 is also a record.

MOST CONSECUTIVE WINS
The Chicago Bears have recorded the most consecutive NFL victories, with 17 in 1933/34.

The most consecutive NFL games played without defeat is 25, by the Canton Bulldogs. They achieved 22 wins and 3 ties between 1921 and 1923.

LONGEST PASS COMPLETION
A pass completion of 99 yd has been achieved on eight occasions and has always resulted in a touchdown. The most recent was a pass from

⊙ MOST PASSES COMPLETED
Dan Marino (Miami Dolphins) completed a total of 4,967 passes between 1983 and his retirement in 2000. He holds many other records, including most yards gained passing in both a career (61,631) and a season (5,084 in 1984).

MOST GREY CUP WINS
The Toronto Argonauts won a record 14 Grey Cups between 1914 and 1997.

MOST CFL GAMES PLAYED
Lui Passaglia played in a record 390 CFL games for the BC Lions between 1976 and 1999.

MOST CFL POINTS SCORED
Lui Passaglia scored 3,811 points for the BC Lions between 1976 and 1999.

Lance Chomyc scored 236 points for the Toronto Argonauts in the 1991 season.

Brett Favre to Robert Brooks, both of the Green Bay Packers, when they played the Chicago Bears on 11 Sep 1995.

LONGEST RUN FROM SCRIMMAGE
Tony Dorsett scored on a touchdown run of 99 yd for the Dallas Cowboys v the Minnesota Vikings on 3 Jan 1983.

HIGHEST ATTENDANCES
The greatest number of spectators at a game is 103,985, for Super Bowl XIV between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the LA Rams at the Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California, on 20 Jan 1980.

The largest crowd for a regular season game is 102,368, a record set when the LA Rams played the San Francisco 49ers at the Los Angeles Coliseum, California, on 10 Nov 1957.

BIGGEST TV AUDIENCE
The biggest ever TV audience for a match was 138.5 million, for the NBC transmission of Super Bowl XXX between Dallas and Pittsburgh on 28 Jan 1996.

← MOST YARDS GAINED PASSING
Kurt Warner threw 414 yd for the St Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXIV in Atlanta, Georgia, on 30 Jan 2000.

Golf

LOWEST SCORE OVER 18 HOLES
Five players have played a course of over 5,950 m (6,500 yd) with a score of 58. The most recent was Shigeki Maruyama (Japan) in a qualifying event for the US Open, on the 5,979-m (6,539-yd) 71-par course at Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, Maryland, on 5 June 2000.

The US PGA tournament record is 59, by Al Geiberger (USA) in the Danny Thomas Classic, on the 6,628-m (7,249-yd) 72-par Colonial GC course, Memphis, Tennessee, USA, on 10 June 1977; by Chip Beck (USA) in the Las Vegas Invitational, on the 6,381-m (6,979-yd) 72-par Sunrise GC course, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, on 11 Oct 1991; and by David Duval (USA) in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, La Quinta, California, USA, on 24 Jan 1999.

Other golfers who have scored 59 over 18 holes in major non-PGA tournaments include: Sam Snead (USA) in the third round of the Sam Snead Festival at White Sulphur Springs, W Virginia, USA, on 16 May 1959; Gary Player (South Africa) in the second round of the Brazilian Open in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 29 Nov 1974; David Jagger (UK) in a Pro-Am tournament prior to the 1973 Nigerian Open at Ikoyi GC, Lagos, Nigeria; and Miguel Martin (Spain) in the Argentine Southern Championship at Mar de Plata, Argentina, on 27 Feb 1987.

The lowest recorded score by a woman on a 5,120-m (5,600-yd) 18-hole course is 61, by Se Ri Pak (South Korea) at the Jamie Farr Kroger Classic, Sylvania, Ohio, USA, on 10 July 1998.

⊙ HIGHEST SEASON'S EARNINGS
In 1999 Karrie Webb (Australia, above) earned a total of $1,591,959 (£989,901) in prize money on the USLPGA tour – a women's record. The men's record is $6,616,585 (£4,110,191), by Tiger Woods (USA), also in 1999.

⊙ MOST INDIVIDUAL RYDER CUP WINS
Nick Faldo (GB) holds the record for the most match wins by an individual in the Ryder Cup, with 23 from 46 played. He has also scored the most points, with 25, having halved four other matches. Faldo participated in the competition a record 11 times between 1977 and 1997.

MOST US OPEN WINS
The US Open has been won four times by: Willie Anderson (1901 and 1903–05); Bobby Jones Jr (1923, 1926, 1929 and 1930); Ben Hogan (1948, 1950, 1951 and 1953); and Jack Nicklaus (1962, 1967, 1972 and 1980).

LOWEST US OPEN SCORES
The lowest score in a round of the US Open is 63, by Johnny Miller on the 6,328-m (6,920-yd) 71-par course at the Oakmont Country Club, Pennsylvania, on 17 June 1973; and by Jack Nicklaus and Tom Weiskopf (both USA) at Baltusrol Country Club (a 6,414-m or 7,015-yd course), New Jersey, both on 12 June 1980.

The lowest score over four rounds is 272, by Jack Nicklaus (63, 71, 70, 68) in June 1980; and by Lee Janzen (USA) (67, 67, 69, 69) in June 1993, both at Baltusrol.

LOWEST BRITISH OPEN SCORES
The lowest score in a round at the British Open is 63, by Mark Hayes (USA) at Turnberry, S Ayrshire, UK, in 1977; Isao Aoki (Japan) at Muirfield, E Lothian, UK, in 1980; Greg Norman (Australia) at Turnberry in 1986; Paul Broadhurst (GB) at St Andrews, Fife, UK, in 1990; Jodie Mudd (USA) at Royal Birkdale, Merseyside, UK, in 1991; and Nick Faldo (GB) and the late Payne Stewart (USA) both at Royal St Georges, Sandwich, UK, in 1993.

MOST RYDER CUP TEAM WINS
The USA has won the biennial Ryder Cup, played between the USA and Europe, 24 times to Europe's seven (with two draws) to 1999.

MOST SOLHEIM CUP WINS
The Solheim Cup, contested between the top female professionals of Europe and the USA, was first held in 1990. The USA has had four wins: in 1990, 1994, 1996 and 1998, with Europe winning in 1992.

The most wins by a player is 12, by Laura Davies (GB) from 19 matches (1990–98); and by Dottie Pepper (USA) from 17 matches (1990–98). The most points scored is 12.5, by both players.

MOST WORLD CUP WINS
The World Cup has been won most often by the USA, with 22 victories between 1955 and 1999.

The only men to have been on six winning teams are Arnold Palmer (USA): 1960, 1962–64, 1966 and 1967; and Jack Nicklaus: 1963, 1964, 1966, 1967, 1971 and 1973. Nicklaus has won the individual title a record three times, in 1963, 1964 and 1971.

LOWEST WORLD CUP TEAM SCORE
The lowest aggregate score for 144 holes is 536, by Fred Couples and Davis Love III (both USA) at Dorado, Puerto Rico, from 10 to 13 Nov 1994.

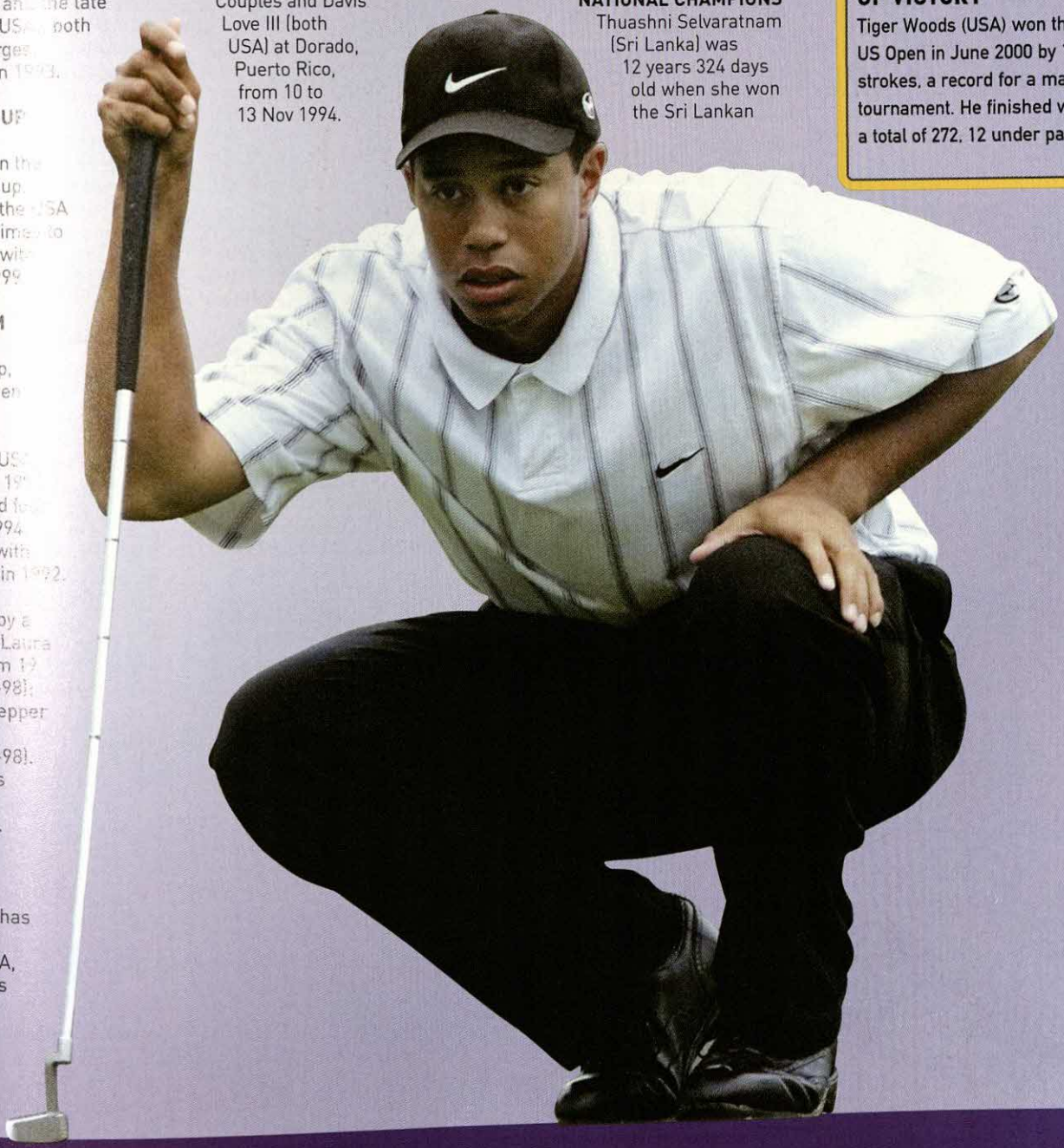
HIGHEST CAREER EARNINGS
By 1 May 2000 Tiger Woods had won $14,730,860 (£9,350,550) in prize money on the PGA tour. Woods turned professional in Aug 1996.

Betsy King (USA) holds the women's record, with $6,583,199 (£4,114,499) earned between 1977 and May 2000.

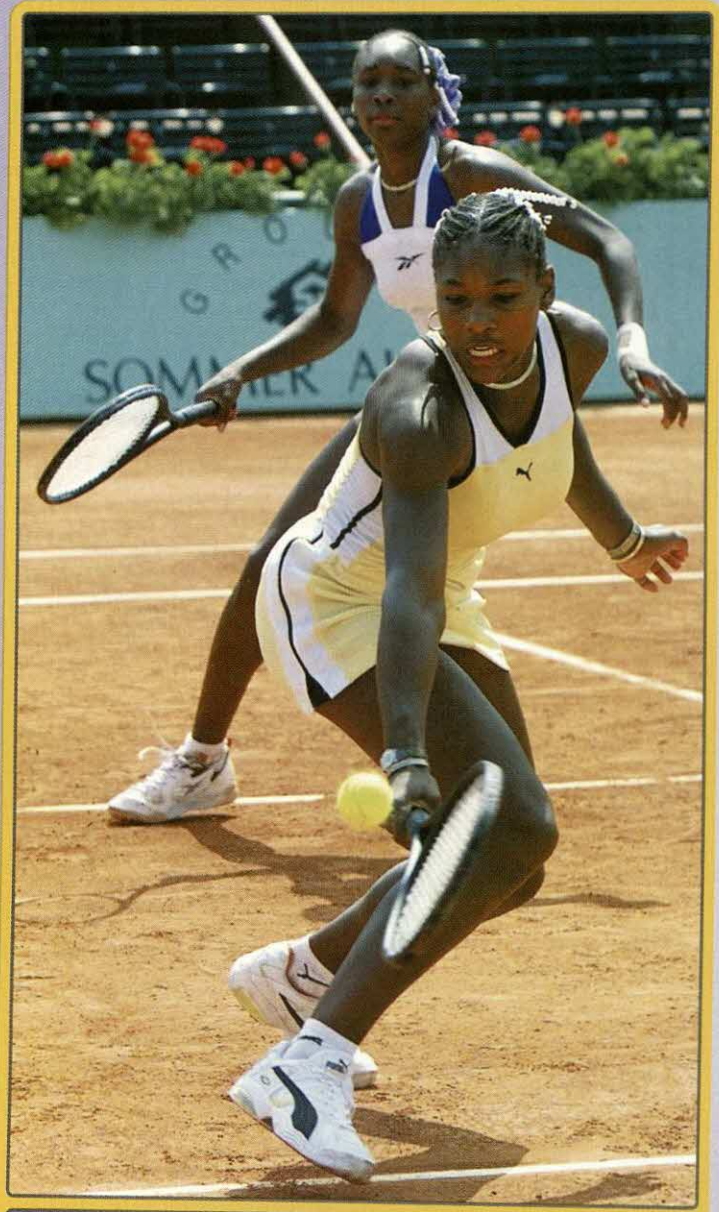
YOUNGEST AND OLDEST NATIONAL CHAMPIONS
Thuashni Selvaratnam (Sri Lanka) was 12 years 324 days old when she won the Sri Lankan Ladies' Amateur Open Golf Championship on 29 April 1989.

Pamela Fernando (Sri Lanka) was 54 years 282 days old when she won the Sri Lankan Women's Championship on 17 July 1981.

↓ BIGGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY
Tiger Woods (USA) won the US Open in June 2000 by 15 strokes, a record for a major tournament. He finished with a total of 272, 12 under par.



Tennis



HIGHEST-EARNING SISTERS IN TENNIS

The most successful tennis-playing sisters are Venus and Serena Williams (USA), who have each won over $7.5 million (£4.8 million) in prize money to date. Venus (behind in the picture) turned professional in 1994, aged 14, with Serena following in 1997, aged 16. In 1999 they became the only sisters to have met in a WTA final – the Lipton Championships – which Venus won 6–1, 4–6, 6–4. They have also played doubles together, and in 1999 won both the French and US Open titles.

MOST GRAND SLAM WINS

Margaret Court (Australia) holds the record for the most singles titles won in Grand Slam tournaments, with a total of 24 (11 Australian, five US, five French and three Wimbledon) between 1960 and 1973.

The record for men's singles Grand Slam titles is 12, held jointly by Roy Emerson of Australia (six Australian, two French, two US and two Wimbledon between 1961 and 1967); and Pete Sampras of the USA (two Australian, six Wimbledon and four US between 1990 and 1999).

The most Grand Slam tournament wins by a doubles partnership is 20, by Althea Brough and Margaret Du Pont (both USA): three French, 12 US and five Wimbledon from 1942 to 1957; and by Martina Navrátilová and Pam Shriver (both USA): seven Australian, four French, four US and five Wimbledon from 1981 to 1989.

John Newcombe and Tony Roche (both Australia) won 12 men's doubles Grand Slam titles (four Australian, two French, one US and five Wimbledon) between 1965 and 1976.

MOST WIMBLEDON WINS

Billie-Jean King (USA) won a record 20 titles between 1961 and 1979: six singles, 10 women's doubles and four mixed doubles.

Elizabeth Ryan (USA) won 19 doubles titles (12 women's and seven mixed) from 1914 to 1934.

Martina Navrátilová has won nine women's singles titles: in 1978, 1979, 1982–87 and 1990.

The most titles won in the men's championships is 13, by Hugh Doherty (GB), with five singles titles (1902–06) and eight men's doubles titles (1897–1901 and 1903–05).

YOUNGEST AND OLDEST WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONS

Martina Hingis (Switzerland) was 15 years 282 days old when she won the women's doubles with Helena Sukova (Czech Republic) in 1996.

Margaret Du Pont (USA) was 44 years 15 days old when she won the mixed doubles with Neale Fraser (Australia) in 1962.

MOST APPEARANCES AT WIMBLEDON

Arthur Gore (GB) made a record 36 appearances at Wimbledon between 1888 and 1927.

Jean Borotra (France) participated in the men's singles competition 35 times between 1922 and 1964. He then went on to play in the veterans' doubles until 1977, when he was 78.

MOST US OPEN WINS

Margaret Du Pont won 25 titles between 1951 and 1960: 13 women's doubles (12 with Althea Brough), five mixed doubles and three singles.

The men's record is 16, by Bill Tilden (US), including seven men's singles titles (1920–25 and 1929). The singles record is shared with Richard Sears (USA): 1881–87; and William Larned (USA): 1901–02 and 1907–11.

The most women's singles titles is eight, by Molla Mallory (USA): 1915–18, 1920–22 and 1926.

YOUNGEST AND OLDEST US OPEN WINNERS

Vincent Richards (USA) was 15 years 139 days old when he won the men's doubles with Bill Tilden (USA) in 1918.

The youngest men's singles champion was Pete Sampras (USA), who won the title in 1990 aged 19 years 28 days.

The youngest women's champion was Tracy Austin (USA), who won

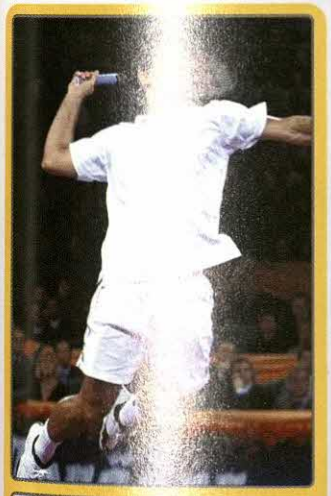
the 1979 women's singles aged 16 years 271 days.

The oldest singles champion was William Larned (US), who was 38 years 242 days old when he won the 1911 men's singles.

The oldest women's champion was Margaret Du[illegible]t (USA), who was 42 years 166 days old when she won the 1960 mixed doubles.

MOST FRENCH OPEN WINS
Margaret Court won a record 13 titles from 1962 to 1973: five singles, four women's doubles and four mixed doubles.

The women's singles record is seven, achieved by Chris Evert of the USA (1974, 1975, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1985 and 1986).



⊙ MOST WIMBLEDON MEN'S SINGLES WINS
Pete Sampras (USA) holds the record for the most Wimbledon men's singles titles, with a total of six (1993–95 and 1997–99). He also holds the career earnings record for men, having made $38,808,561 (£23,643,200) to the end of 1999.

↓ FASTEST SERVICE
Greg Rusedski (GB) achieved a record serve of 239.8 km/h (149 mph) during the ATP Champions' Cup at Indian Wells, California, USA, on 14 March 1998. The fastest server in the women's game is Venus Williams (USA), who recorded a serve of 205 km/h (127.4 mph) during the European Indoor Championships at Zürich, Switzerland, on 16 Oct 1998.

Henri Cochet (France) won nine titles (four singles, three men's doubles and two mixed doubles) between 1926 and 1930.

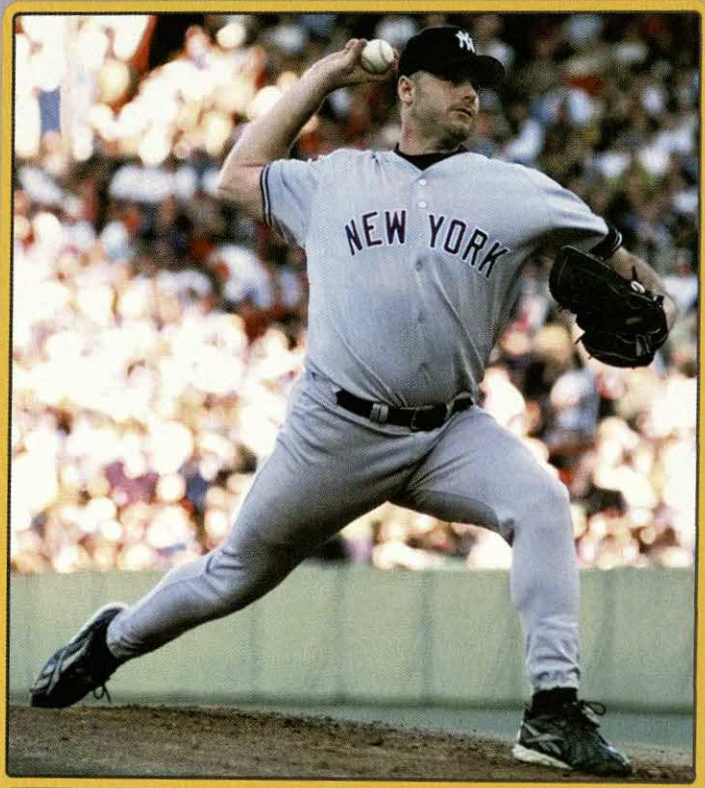
MOST AUSTRALIAN OPEN WINS
Margaret Court won a record 23 titles: 11 women's singles (1960–66, 1969–71 and 1973), eight women's doubles (1961–63, 1965, 1969–71 and 1973) and four mixed doubles (1963–65 and 1969).

Roy Emerson (Australia) won a record six men's singles titles: in 1961 and from 1963 to 1967.

MOST ATP TOUR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WINS
Ivan Lendl (Czechoslovakia) won five titles: in 1982, 1983, 1986 (two) and 1987, appearing in nine successive finals between 1980 and 1988.

John McEnroe and Peter Fleming (both USA) won a record seven doubles titles between 1978 and 1984.

Baseball



⊙ MOST WORLD SERIES WINS
Played annually between the winners of the National League (NL) and the American League (AL), the World Series was first staged unofficially in 1903, and was held officially from 1905. The New York Yankees (AL) hold the record of 25 wins, achieved between 1923 and 1999. Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens is pictured above.

MOST GAMES PLAYED
Pete Rose played in 3,562 games and was at-bat 14,053 times for the Cincinnati Reds (NL, 1963–78 and 1984–86), the Philadelphia Phillies (NL, 1979–83) and the Montreal Expos (NL, 1984).

Cal Ripken Jr played 2,632 consecutive games for the Baltimore Orioles (AL) between 30 May 1982 and 19 Sept 1998.

In 1962 Maury Wills played 165 games for the Los Angeles Dodgers (NL) in just one season.

MOST HOME RUNS
Hank Aaron holds the major league career record with 755 home runs: 733 for the Milwaukee Braves (NL, 1954–65) and Atlanta Braves (NL, 1966–74), and 22 for the Milwaukee Brewers (AL) from 1975 to 1976.

George Herman 'Babe' Ruth hit 714 home runs from 8,399 times at-bat – a record rate of 8.5%.

Mark McGwire hit 70 home runs in 162 games for the St Louis Cardinals (NL) in the 1998 season.

Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs (NL) holds the record for the most home runs in one month, achieving 20 in June 1998.

The most home runs in a week is 10, by Frank Howard of the Washington Senators (AL) from 12–18 May 1968.

The most consecutive games hitting home runs is eight, by Dale Long for the Pittsburgh Pirates (NL) in May 1956; Don Mattingly for the New York Yankees (AL) in July 1987; and Ken Griffey Jr for the Seattle Mariners (AL) in July 1993.

MOST AT-BATS IN A SEASON
The record for the most at-bats in a season is 705, achieved by Willie Wilson for the Kansas City Royals (AL) in 1980.

ONLY 40/40 CLUB MEMBERS
Three players have hit 40 home runs and stolen 40 bases in a season: Jose Canseco (Oakland Athletics, AL) in 1988, Barry Bonds (San Francisco Giants, NL) in 1996 and Alex Rodriguez (Seattle Mariners, AL) in 1998.

MOST GAMES PITCHED
By 27 April 2000 Jesse Orosco had pitched a total of 1,093 games for the New York Mets (NL), LA Dodgers (NL), Cleveland Indians (AL), Milwaukee Brewers (AL), Baltimore Orioles (AL) and St Louis Cardinals (NL).

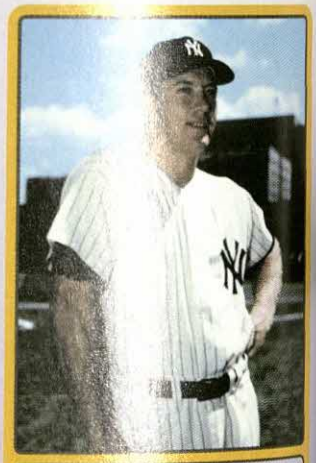
MOST GAMES WON BY A PITCHER
The most games won by a pitcher is 511, by Cy Young, who also played 749 complete games in his career: for Cleveland (NL, 1890–98), St Louis (NL, 1899–1900), Boston (AL, 1901–08), Cleveland (AL, 1909–11) and Boston (NL, 1911). He pitched a record total of 7,356 innings.

Carl Hubbell pitched the New York Giants (AL) to a record 24 consecutive wins: 16 in 1936 and eight in 1937.

MOST CONSECUTIVE SCORELESS INNINGS
Orel Hershiser of the LA Dodgers (NL) pitched a record 59 consecutive scoreless innings from 30 Aug to 28 Sept 1988.

MOST VALUABLE WORLD SERIES PLAYERS
Three men have won the Most Valuable Player award twice: Sandy Koufax (Los Angeles Dodgers, NL, 1963, 1965); Bob Gibson (St Louis Cardinals, NL, 1964, 1968) and Reggie Jackson (Oakland Athletics, AL, 1973, and New York Yankees, AL, 1977).

YOUNGEST PLAYERS
Joseph Henry Nuxhall played one game for the Cincinatti Reds (NL), aged 15 years 314 days, in June 1944. He did not play again in the National League until 1952.



⊙ LONGEST HOME RUN
The record for the longest measured home run in a major league game is 193 m (634 ft). It was achieved by Mickey Mantle for the New York Yankees (AL) against the Detroit Tigers (AL) at Briggs Stadium, Detroit, Michigan, USA, on 10 Sept 1960.

The youngest player in a World Series was Fred Lindstrom, who was 18 years 339 days old when he played for the New York Giants (NL) on 24 Oct 1924.

OLDEST PLAYERS
Leroy 'Satchel' Paige pitched for the Kansas City Athletics (AL) aged 59 years 80 days on 25 Sept 1965.

The oldest World Series player was Jack Quinn of the Philadelphia Athletics. He was 47 years 91 days old when he played on 4 Oct 1930.

MOST NATIONAL LEAGUE TITLES
The record for the most National League titles is 18, held by the LA Dodgers (formerly the Brooklyn Robins and the Brooklyn Dodgers).

LONGEST GAMES
The Brooklyn Dodgers (NL) and the Boston Braves (NL) played to a 1–1 tie after 26 innings on 1 May 1920.

The Chicago White Sox (AL) played the longest game in elapsed time – 8 hr 6 min – before beating the Milwaukee Brewers 7–6 in the 25th innings on 9 May 1984.

MOST SPECTATORS
An estimated 114,000 spectators watched a demonstration game between Australia and a US Services team during the Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia, on 1 Dec 1956.

The record World Series attendance is 420,784, for the six games between 1 and 8 Oct 1959 when the LA Dodgers beat the Chicago White Sox 4–2. The US single game attendance record is 92,706, for the fifth game of this series, played at the Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles, California, USA, on 6 Oct 1959.

A record total of 4,483,350 people attended the home games of the Colorado Rockies (NL) in the course of the 1993 season.

The record for the highest ever season's attendance for all major league baseball games is 70,372,221, set in 1998.

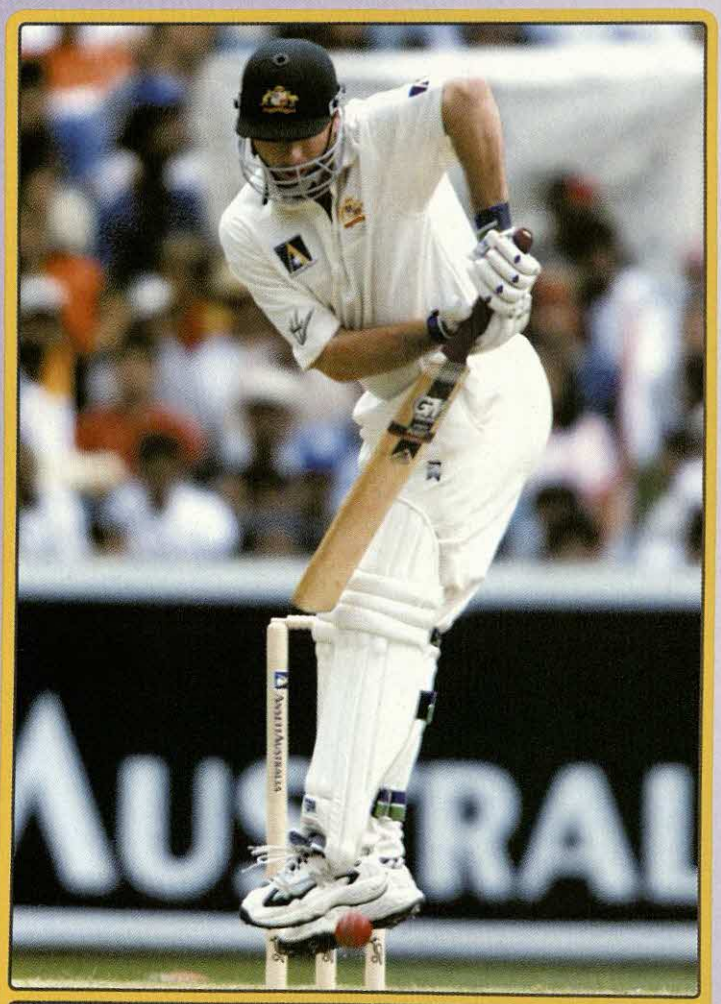
↓ MOST OLYMPIC WINS
Baseball became a full Olympic sport in 1992, and the gold medals in both 1992 and 1996 were taken by Cuba. Cuba has also won the World Cup a record 22 times, between 1939 and 1998.

Cricket

BEST TEST ALL-ROUNDERS
The best all-round record is that of Kapil Dev (India), who scored 5,248 runs (averaging 31.05), took 434 wickets (averaging 29.64) and held 64 catches in 131 matches between 1978 and 1994.

Ian Botham (England) is the only player to have scored 100 and taken eight wickets in one Test innings, with 108 and 8-34 for England v Pakistan at Lord's, UK, from 15 to 19 June 1978. He also scored 114 and took 13 wickets (6-58 and 7-48) for England v India at Bombay, India, from 15 to 19 Feb 1980.

Imran Khan scored 117 (6-98 and 5-82) for Pakistan v India at Faisalabad, Pakistan, from 3 to 8 Jan 1983.



⊙ 150S AGAINST MOST NATIONS
On 26 March 2000, during the second Test against New Zealand, Australian captain Steve Waugh became the first cricketer to have scored 150 runs in an innings against all eight Test-playing nations.

LONGEST TEST MATCH
The longest recorded cricket match was the 'timeless' Test between England and South Africa, played at Durban, South Africa, from 3 to 14 March 1939. It was abandoned after 10 days (one of which was rained off) because the ship taking the visitors home was due to leave. The total playing time was 43 hr 16 min, and a record Test match aggregate of 1,981 runs was scored.

HIGHEST TEST INNINGS
Sri Lanka scored 952-6 v India at Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 4 to 6 Aug 1997.

Brian Lara scored 375, a record for a Test batsman, in 12 hr 48 min for West Indies v England at Recreation Ground, St John's, Antigua, from 16 to 18 April 1994.

MOST WICKETS IN A TEST INNINGS
Two bowlers have taken all 10 wickets in a Test match innings. Jim Laker took 10-53 in his second innings for England v Australia at Old Trafford, UK, on 31 July 1956; and Anil Kumble (India) took 10-74 for India v Pakistan at Ferozeshah Kolta Stadium, New Delhi, India, on 7 Feb 1999. Laker had taken 9-37 in his first innings, giving him a first-class record of 19 wickets in a match.

HIGHEST ODI SCORES
The highest innings score in a one-day international is 398-5, by Sri Lanka v Kenya in a World Cup match in Kandy, Sri Lanka, on 6 March 1996.

The highest innings score between Test-playing nations is 376-2, by India v New Zealand at Hyderabad, India, on 8 Nov 1999.

The biggest margin of victory is 232, by Australia v Sri Lanka (323-2 to 91) in Australia on 28 Jan 1985.

⊙ MOST ODI WICKETS
The most wickets taken in one-day internationals is 423 (an average of 23.64), by Wasim Akram (Pakistan) in 303 matches between 1985 and 2000.

LOWEST ODI SCORE
The lowest completed innings total on record is 43, scored by Pakistan v West Indies in Cape Town, South Africa, on 25 Feb 1993.

HIGHEST ODI PARTNERSHIP
The highest-scoring batting partnership in a one-day international is 331, by Sachin Tendulkar (186 not out) and Rahul Dravid (153) for India v New Zealand at Hyderabad, India, on 8 Nov 1999.

HIGHEST INNINGS
Brian Lara scored 501 not out in 7 hr 54 min for Warwickshire v Durham at Edgbaston, UK, in June 1994.

LONGEST INDIVIDUAL INNINGS
Rajiv Nayyar (India) batted for 16 hr 55 min when scoring 271 for Himachal Pradesh v Jammu and Kashmir at Chandigarh, India, from 1 to 3 Nov 1999.

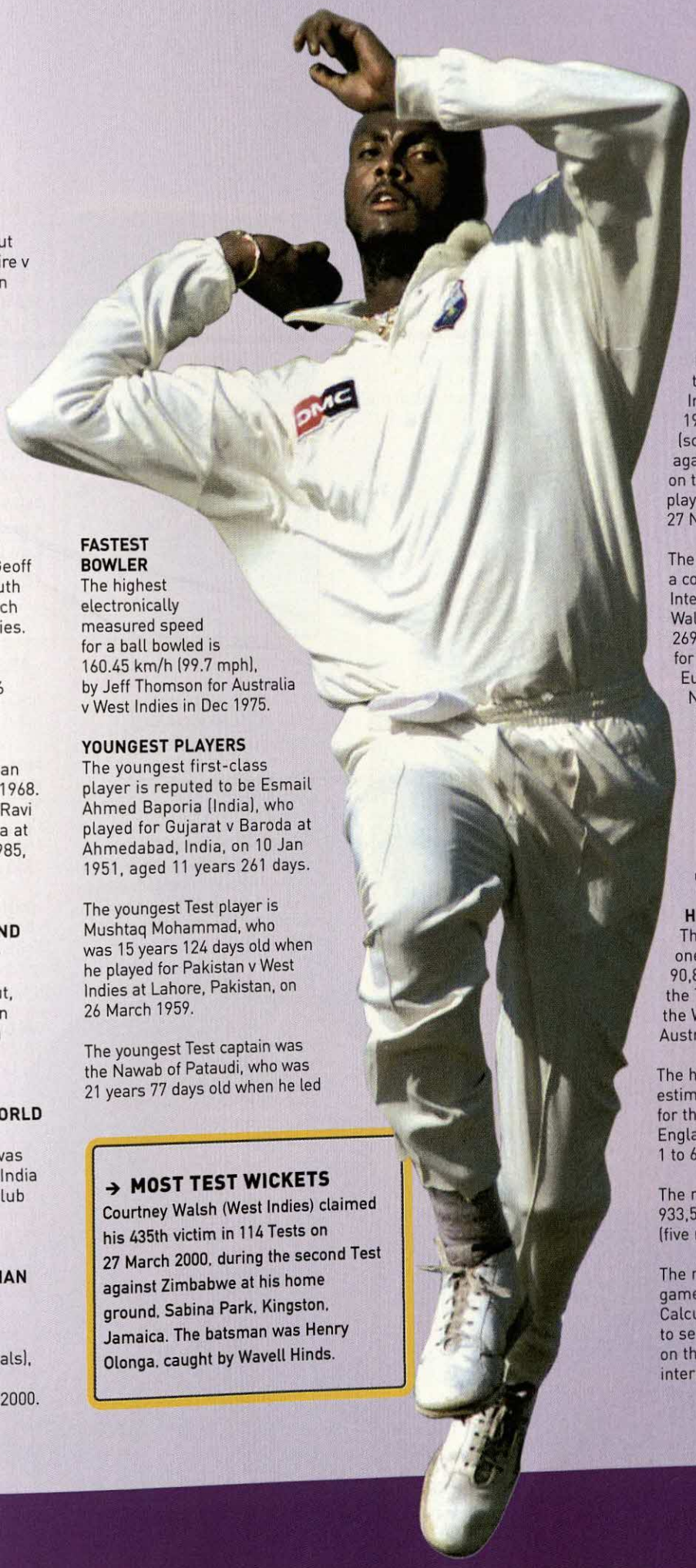
The longest innings without scoring is 101 minutes, by Geoff Allott for New Zealand v South Africa at Auckland on 2 March 1999. Allott faced 77 deliveries.

MOST RUNS OFF AN OVER
The first batsman to score 36 runs off a six-ball over was Gary Sobers, off the bowling of Malcolm Nash for Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan at Swansea, UK, on 31 Aug 1968. His record was equalled by Ravi Shastri for Bombay v Baroda at Bombay, India, on 10 Jan 1985, off Tilak Raj Sharma.

HIGHEST INNINGS IN THE WORLD CUP FOR THE BLIND
The highest individual score in the inaugural World Cup for the Blind was 262 not out, by Mansood Jan for Pakistan v South Africa at Roshanara Club, New Delhi, India, on 19 Nov 1998.

BEST BOWLING IN THE WORLD CUP FOR THE BLIND
The best bowling analysis was 3-12, by Bhalaji Damor for India v Sri Lanka at Roshanara Club on 18 Nov 1998.

MOST INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES BY A WOMAN
The most international appearances by a female cricketer is 126 (19 Tests and 107 one-day internationals), by Deborah Hockley (New Zealand) between 1979 and 2000.



FASTEST BOWLER
The highest electronically measured speed for a ball bowled is 160.45 km/h (99.7 mph), by Jeff Thomson for Australia v West Indies in Dec 1975.

YOUNGEST PLAYERS
The youngest first-class player is reputed to be Esmail Ahmed Baporia (India), who played for Gujarat v Baroda at Ahmedabad, India, on 10 Jan 1951, aged 11 years 261 days.

The youngest Test player is Mushtaq Mohammad, who was 15 years 124 days old when he played for Pakistan v West Indies at Lahore, Pakistan, on 26 March 1959.

The youngest Test captain was the Nawab of Pataudi, who was 21 years 77 days old when he led India v West Indies at Bridgetown, Barbados, on 23 March 1962.

→ MOST TEST WICKETS
Courtney Walsh (West Indies) claimed his 435th victim in 114 Tests on 27 March 2000, during the second Test against Zimbabwe at his home ground, Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica. The batsman was Henry Olonga, caught by Wavell Hinds.

OLDEST PLAYERS
The oldest player in first-class cricket was Raja Maharaj Singh, one of the governors of Bombay, India. He was 72 years 192 days old when he batted (scoring 4) for his own XI against a Commonwealth XI on the opening day of a match played at Bombay from 25 to 27 Nov 1950.

The oldest player to represent a country recognized by the International Cricket Council is Wally Glynn, who was 65 years 269 days old when he played for Malta v Greece during the European Cricket Federation Nations' Championship at Zuoz, Switzerland, on 21 Aug 1997.

OLDEST UMPIRE
Joe Filliston (UK), who died in 1964, applied to become an umpire at the age of 82, and was still umpiring at the age of 100.

HIGHEST ATTENDANCES
The greatest attendance for one day of a cricket match is 90,800, for the second day of the Test between Australia and the West Indies at Melbourne, Australia, on 11 Feb 1961.

The highest for one match is an estimated 394,000 over five days, for the Test between India and England at Calcutta, India, from 1 to 6 Jan 1982.

The record for a Test series is 933,513, for Australia v England (five matches) in 1936/37.

The record for a limited-overs game is an estimated 90,450 at Calcutta, India, on 10 Nov 1991, to see India play South Africa on the latter's return to official international cricket.

Ball Sports 1

MOST VOLLEYBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
The USSR have won six men's titles: 1949, 1952, 1960, 1962, 1978 and 1982.

The record number of women's titles is five, by the USSR: 1952, 1956, 1960, 1970 and 1990.

MOST OLYMPIC VOLLEYBALL WINS
The USSR have won a record four women's titles (1968, 1972, 1980 and 1988); and three men's titles (1964, 1968 and 1980).

MOST OLYMPIC VOLLEYBALL MEDALS
The only player to have won four Olympic medals is Inna Ryskal (USSR), who took silver in 1964 and 1976 and gold in 1968 and 1972.

The men's record is three, held by Yuriy Poyarkov of the USSR (gold in 1964 and 1968 and bronze in 1972); Katsutoshi Nekoda of Japan (gold in 1972, silver in 1968 and bronze in 1964); and Steve Timmons of the USA (gold in 1984 and 1988 and bronze in 1992).

MOST AVP BEACH VOLLEYBALL TITLES
Karch Kiraly (USA) had won a record 141 AVP (Association of Volleyball Professionals) tour titles to the end of the 1999 season, with record AVP tour earnings of $2,844,065 (£1,857,785) by April 2000.

⊙ MOST WORLD HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
The most men's indoor titles is four, by Sweden (1954, 1958, 1990 and 1999) and by Romania (1961, 1964, 1[illegible] and 1974). The outdoor title has been won five times, by West Germany between 1938 [illegible] 1966. Here, a member of the Swedish team (left) is pictured in Sweden's 1999 final against Croatia.

⊙ MOST NETBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
Australia has won the World Championships a record eight times: in 1963, 1971, 1975, 1979, 1983, 1991, 1995 and 1999. Liz Ellis (Australia, left) is seen here with Alex Astle (England) during the 1999 semi-finals.

MOST INTERNATIONAL NETBALL APPEARANCES
Kendra Slawinski (GB) made a record 128 international appearances between 1981 and 1995.

MOST WOMEN'S WORLD HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
A record three women's titles have been won by: Romania (outdoor in 1956 and 1960, and indoor in 1962); East Germany (indoor in 1971, 1975 and 1978); and the USSR (indoor in 1982, 1986 and 1990).

MOST OLYMPIC HANDBALL TITLES
The USSR has won the men's title a record three times: in 1976, 1988 and 1992 (the last as the CIS).

The most women's titles is two, by the USSR (1976 and 1980); and South Korea (1988 and 1992).

HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL SCORE
The record for the highest score in an international match was set in Aug 1981, when the USSR beat Afghanistan 86–2 in the 'Friendly Army Tournament' in Miskolc, Hungary.

MOST WORLD KORFBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
The most wins in the World Championships is five, by the Netherlands: [illegible], 1984, 1987, 1995 and 1999.

HIGHEST KORFBALL SCORE
The highest score by a team in the finals of the World Championships is 23, by the Netherlands v Belgium (who scored 11) in 1999.

BIGGEST KORFBALL TOURNAMENT
On 12 June 199[illegible] a record 1,796 players took part in the Kom Keukens/Ten Donck International Youth Korfball Tournament in Ridderkerk, Netherlands.

MOST AFL LEAGUE PREMIERSHIPS
The greatest number of AFL League Premierships is 16, by Carlton between 1906 and 1995.

MOST GOALS IN AN AFL SEASON
The highest number of goals scored in an AFL season is 150, by Bob Pratt (South Melbourne)

in 1934; and Peter Hudson (Hawthorn) in 19[illegible]

MOST AFL GAMES
The record for the most AFL games played is held by Michael Tuck (Hawthorn) with 426 between 1972 and 1991.

MOST TENPIN BOWLING WORLD CUPS
The World Cup, which was instituted in 196[illegible] is contested annually by the national champions of the Fédération Internationale des Quilleurs (FIQ). The highest number of wins is four, by Paeng Nepomuceno (Philippines): 19[illegible], 1980, 1992 and 1996.

MOST PROFESSIONAL BOWLING ASSOCIATION TITLES
Earl Anthony (USA) won a record 41 PBA titles in the course of his career.

LONGEST BOWLING MARATHON
Thomas Becker (USA) bowled for a record 24[illegible] min at the Brunswick Sup[illegible]wl Lanes, Littleton, Colorado, USA, between 28 Feb and 1 March 1999.

MOST OUTDOOR BOWLS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
The Leonard Trophy has been won four times by Scotland: 1972, 1984, 199[illegible] and 1996.

David Bryant (GB) has won a record six World Championship gold medals: three singles titles (1966, 1980 and 1988), one triples title (1980) and the Leonard Trophy in 1980 and 1988.

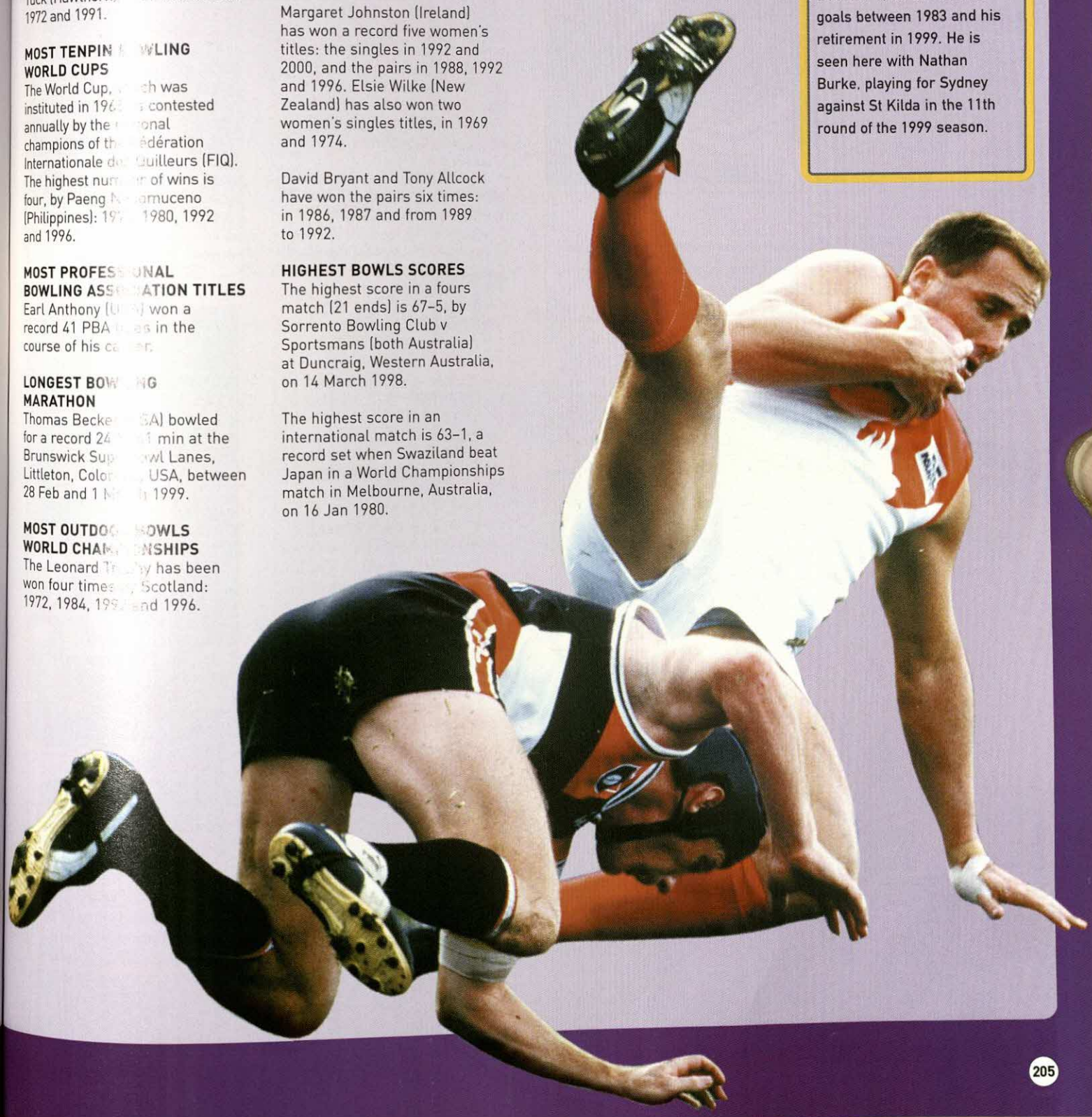
Margaret Johnston (Ireland) has won a record five women's titles: the singles in 1992 and 2000, and the pairs in 1988, 1992 and 1996. Elsie Wilke (New Zealand) has also won two women's singles titles, in 1969 and 1974.

David Bryant and Tony Allcock have won the pairs six times: in 1986, 1987 and from 1989 to 1992.

HIGHEST BOWLS SCORES
The highest score in a fours match (21 ends) is 67–5, by Sorrento Bowling Club v Sportsmans (both Australia) at Duncraig, Western Australia, on 14 March 1998.

The highest score in an international match is 63–1, a record set when Swaziland beat Japan in a World Championships match in Melbourne, Australia, on 16 Jan 1980.

↓ MOST GOALS IN AN AFL CAREER
Tony Lockett (right) scored a record 1,357 AFL career goals between 1983 and his retirement in 1999. He is seen here with Nathan Burke, playing for Sydney against St Kilda in the 11th round of the 1999 season.



Ball Sports 2

⊙ FASTEST BALL SPEED
The fastest speed reached by a ball in any ball game is approximately 302 km/h (188 mph), in pelota. This compares with a recorded speed of 273 km/h (170 mph) for a golf ball driven off a tee.

MOST PELOTA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
The Federación Internacional de Pelota Vasca has held World Championships every four years since 1952. The most wins is seven, by Juan Labat (Argentina) between 1952 and 1966; and by Riccardo Bizzozero (Argentina) between 1970 and 1982.

The most successful pair are Juan Labat and Roberto Elías (Argentina), who won the Trinquete Share four times: in 1952, 1958, 1962 and 1966.

The most wins in the long court game, Cesta Punta, is three, by José Hamuy of Mexico (with two different partners): in 1958, 1962 and 1966.

MOST SQUASH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
Jahangir Khan (Pakistan) has won six World Open titles: from 1981 to 1985, and in 1988. He has also won the International Squash Rackets Federation world individual title three times: in 1979, 1983 and 1985.

Susan Devoy (New Zealand) has won a record four women's World Open titles: in 1985, 1987, 1990 and 1992.

The most men's world team titles won is six, by Australia (1967, 1969, 1971, 1973, 1989 and 1991); and by Pakistan (1977, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987 and 1993).

The most women's world team titles won is also six, by Australia: in 1981, 1983, 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998.

SHORTEST CHAMPIONSHIP SQUASH MATCH
In a British Open match played at Lamb's Squash Club, London, UK, on 9 April 1992, Philip Kenyon (GB) beat Salah Nadi (Egypt) in just 6 min 37 sec. The score was 9–0, 9–0, 9–0.

LONGEST CHAMPIONSHIP SQUASH MATCH
The longest ever championship match lasted for 2 hr 45 min, a record set when Jahangir Khan (Pakistan) beat Gamal Awad (Egypt) 9–10, 9–5, 9–7, 9–2 in the final of the Patrick International Festival at Chichester, W Sussex, UK, on 30 March 1983. The first set alone lasted for a record 1 hr 11 min.

FASTEST SQUASH BALL SPEED
In Jan 1988 Roy Buckland (GB) served a squash ball at a record speed of 232.7 km/h (144.6 mph) during tests at the Wimbledon Squash and Badminton Club, London, UK. The ball's initial speed at the racket was 242.6 km/h (150.8 mph).

MOST TABLE TENNIS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
The greatest number of women's team titles (the Marcel Corbillon Cup) is 13, by China: in 1965, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1993, 1995, 1997 and 2000.

The most men's team titles (the Swaythling Cup) is 12, by Hungary (1926, 1928–31, 1933 – two titles – 1935, 1938, 1949, 1952 and 1979); and by China (1961, 1963, 1965, 1971, 1975, 1977, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1995 and 1997).

MOST WORLD RACKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
The World Racketball Championships, which are based around the US version of the game, racquetball, were instituted in 1981 and have been held biennially since 1984. The USA have won a record nine team titles: in 1981, 1984, 1986 (jointly with Canada), 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998.

MOST INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY APPEARANCES
By Jan 2000, Jaques Brinkman had represented the Netherlands in a record 316 international games.

HIGHEST HOCKEY SCORES
The record for the highest score by a team in a men's international match is held by India, who defeated the USA 24–1 during the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California, USA.

The record by a women's team was set in London, UK, on 3 Feb 19[illegible] when England beat France [illegible]–0.

MOST INTERNATIONAL CAREER HOCKEY GOALS
Paul Litjens (Netherlands) has scored a record 267 goals in 177 international matches.

MOST ROLLER HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
Portugal won a record 14 roller hockey world titles between 19[illegible] and 1993.

⊙ MOST SQUASH WORLD OPEN TITLES
Jansher Khan (Pakistan) has won a record eight World Open titles: in 1987, 1989 and 1990, and from 1992 to 1996.

⊙ MOST LACROSSE INTERNATIONALS
Vivien Jones played in 99 international matches between 1977 and 1999: 87 for Wales, nine for the Celts and three for Great Britain.

HIGHEST LACROSSE SCORES
The record for the highest score by a team in an international match is held by the Great Britain and Ireland women's team, who defeated US team Long Island 40–0 during their 1967 tour of the USA.

The record for the highest team score in a men's World Cup match was set on 25 July 1994, when Scotland beat Germany 34–3 in Greater Manchester, UK.

The record team score in the World Cup Premier Division is the USA's 33–2 win over Japan in Greater Manchester, UK, on 21 July 1994.

MOST POOL WORLD TITLES
Ralph Greenleaf (USA) won the world professional pool title a record 19 times between 1919 and 1937.

FASTEST POOL TABLE CLEARANCES
The shortest time in which anyone has potted all 15 balls is 26.5 seconds, by Dave Pearson (GB) at Pepper's Bar and Grill, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, on 4 April 1997.

The women's record is 37.07 seconds, by Susan Thompson (GB) at the Phoenix Pool & Snooker Club, Wallasey, UK, on 1 Dec 1996.

HIGHEST SNOOKER BREAKS
Tony Drago (Malta) made a break of 149 in a witnessed practice frame at West Norwood, London, UK, on 1 Feb 1995. The feat was repeated by Eddie Manning (GB) at the Willie Thorne Snooker Centre, Leicester, UK, on 19 May 1997. Both breaks involved a free ball, which created an 'extra' red with all 15 reds still on the table.

The only '16 red' clearance in a tournament was completed by Steve James (UK), who made 135 against Alex Higgins (UK) in the World Professional Championships at Sheffield, S Yorks, UK, on 14 April 1990.

← MOST OLYMPIC TABLE TENNIS GOLDS
Deng Yaping (China) has won a record four Olympic titles: the women's singles and doubles (with Qiao Hang) in both 1992 and 1996. The men's record is two, by Lui Guoliang (China): the singles and doubles (with Kong Linhui) in 1996.

Athletics 1

MOST OLYMPIC GOLDS
The most Olympic gold medals won by a man is 10, by Raymond Ewry (USA): in the standing high, long and triple jumps in 1900, 1904, 1906 and 1908.

The most gold medals won by a woman is four, by Fanny Blankers-Koen (Netherlands): the 100 m, 200 m, 80-m hurdles and 4 x 100-m relay in 1948; Betty Cuthbert (Australia): the 100 m, 200 m and 4 x 100-m relay in 1956, and the 400 m in 1964; Bärbel Wöckel (GDR): the 200 m and 4 x 100-m relay in both 1976 and 1980; and Evelyn Ashford (USA): the 100 m in 1984, and the 4 x 100-m relay in 1984, 1988 and 1992.

MOST WINS AT ONE OLYMPICS
The highest number of gold medals won at a single Olympics is five, achieved by Paavo Nurmi (Finland): the 1,500 m, 5,000 m, 10,000-m cross-country individual and team events and the 3,000-m team event in 1924.

The most medals won in individual events is four, by Alvin Kraenzlein (USA): the 60 m, 110-m hurdles, 200-m hurdles and long jump in 1900.

MOST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS
Merlene Ottey (Jamaica) has won a record 14 medals in the World Athletics Championships, with three gold, four silver and seven bronze from 1983 to 1997.

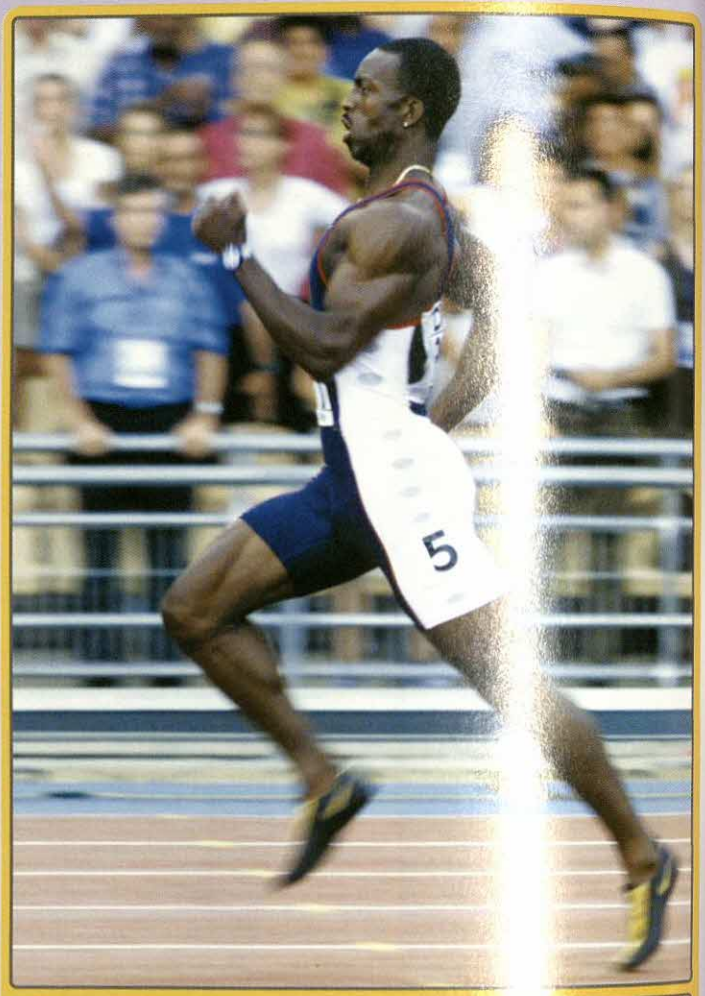
The most medals won by a man is 10, by Carl Lewis (USA). He took a record eight golds (100 m, long jump and 4 x 100-m relay in 1983; 100 m, long jump and 4 x 100-m relay in 1987; 100 m and 4 x 100-m relay in 1991), a silver at long jump in 1991 and a bronze at 200 m in 1993.

MOST RECORDS SET IN A DAY
Jesse Owens (USA) set six world records in 45 minutes at Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, on 25 May 1935. He ran 100 yd in 9.4 sec at 3:15 pm, made an 8.13-m (26-ft 8-in) long jump at 3:25 pm, ran 220 yd (and 200 m) in 20.3 sec at 3:45 pm, then covered the 220-yd (and 200-m) low hurdles at 4 pm.

LONGEST WINNING SEQUENCE
The record at a track event is 122, by Ed Moses (USA) at the 400-m hurdles between Aug 1977 and June 1987.

FASTEST MASS RELAYS
The fastest time for a 100 x 100-m relay is 19 min 14.19 sec, set by a team from Antwerp at Merksem, Belgium, on 23 Sept 1989.

The fastest time for a 100 x 1-mile relay is 7 hr 35 min 55.4 sec, by the Canadian Milers Athletic Club at York



⊙ FASTEST 200 M AND 400 M
The records for the 200 m (19.32 sec, set in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, on 1 Aug 1996) and both the indoor and outdoor 400 m (44.63 sec in Atlanta on 4 March 1995 and 43.18 sec in Seville, Spain, on 26 Aug 1999 respectively) are all held by Michael Johnson (USA).

⊙ LONGEST DISTANCE COVERED IN ONE HOUR
Tegla Loroupe (Kenya) covered a distance of 18,340 m (11 miles 697.4 yd) in one hour at Bergholzhausen, Germany, on 7 Aug 1998. The men's record is 21,101 m (13 miles 197 yd), set by Artur Barrios (Mexico, now USA) at La Flèche, France, on 30 March 1991.

University, Toronto, Canada, on 20 Dec 1998.

The record for a team of 211 runners running the standard marathon distance (210 x 200 m, 1,[illegible]95 m) is 1 hr 38 min 50.97 sec, by the Kanagawa Prefecture High School Sports Federation at Hiratsuka Stadium, Japan, on 5 May 1998.

FASTEST WOMEN'S MARATHON
The women's official world marathon record is 2 hr 20 min 43 sec, achieved by Tegla Loroupe (Kenya) in Berlin, Germany, on 26 Sept 1999.

OLDEST MARATHON
The Boston Marathon, the world's longest running major marathon, was first held on 19 April 1897, when it was run over a distance of 39 km (24 miles 1,232 yd). John A Kelley (USA) finished the marathon 61 times between 1928 and 1992, winning in 1933 and 1945.

HIGHEST MARATHON
The biennial Everest Marathon, first run on 27 Nov 1987, is the highest marathon in the world. It begins at an altitude of 5,212 m (17,100 ft) at Gorak Shep and ends at Namche Bazar (both Nepal), at an altitude of 3,444 m (11,300 ft). The fastest times to complete this race are 3 hr 56 min 10 sec, by Hari Roka (Nepal) in 1999; and 5 hr 16 min 3 sec, by Anne Stentiford (UK) in 1997.

MOST MARATHON COMPETITORS
The record number of confirmed finishers in a marathon is 38,706, at the centennial race in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, on 15 April 1996.

A record 105 men ran the London Marathon, UK, in under 2 hr 20 min, and 46 in under 2 hr 15 min, on 21 April 1991; and a record 11 men ran the Boston Marathon, USA, in under 2 hr 10 min on 18 April 1994.

On 5 Aug 1984 a record nine women ran the first women's Olympic marathon, held in Los Angeles, California, USA, in under 2 hr 30 min.

MOST MARATHONS COMPLETED
Horst Preisler (Germany) completed 949 marathons between 1974 and March 2000.

→ FASTEST MARATHON
Khalid Khannouchi (Morocco) ran the Chicago Marathon, Illinois, USA, in a record 2 hr 5 min 42 sec on 24 Oct 1999. He took 23 seconds off the previous record, set by Ronaldo da Costa (Brazil) on 20 Sept 1998.

FASTEST INTERCONTINENTAL MARATHON COMPLETION
Tim Rogers (GB) completed a marathon on each of the seven continents in 99 days between 13 Feb and 23 May 1999. He began with the Antarctica Marathon on King Jorge Island, and followed with marathons in the USA (North and Central America), South Africa (Africa), France (Europe), Brazil (South America) and Hong Kong (Asia), before finishing with a marathon at Huntly, New Zealand (Oceania).

Kimi Puntillo (USA) completed a marathon on each of the seven continents in 700 days between 3 Nov 1996 and 4 Oct 1998. She began with the New York Marathon (North and Central America) and also ran marathons in Antarctica, London (Europe), Nepal (Asia), Tanzania (Africa) and Sydney (Oceania), before finishing with a marathon in Argentina (South America).

FASTEST HALF-MARATHONS
The world's best time for a half-marathon on a properly measured course is 59 min 5 sec, by Paul Tergat (Kenya) in Lisbon, Portugal, on 26 March 2000.

The women's official half-marathon record is 66 min 43 sec, by Masako Chika (Japan) at Tokyo, Japan, on 19 April 1997.

Athletics 2

OLDEST OLYMPIC ATHLETICS MEDALLISTS
The oldest winner of an Olympic athletics event was Patrick 'Babe' Macdonald (USA). He was 42 years 26 days old when he won the 56-lb weight throw in Belgium in 1920.

The oldest athletics medallist was Tebbs Lloyd Johnson (GB). He was 48 years 115 days old when he won a bronze medal in the 50,000-m walk in London, UK, in 1948.

The oldest female medallist was Dana Zátopková (Czechoslovakia), who was 37 years 348 days old when she took silver in the javelin in Rome, Italy, in 1960.

YOUNGEST OLYMPIC ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS
The youngest gold medallist in an athletics event was Barbara Jones (USA). She was 15 years 123 days old when she ran in the winning 4 x 100-m relay team at Helsinki, Finland, in July 1952.

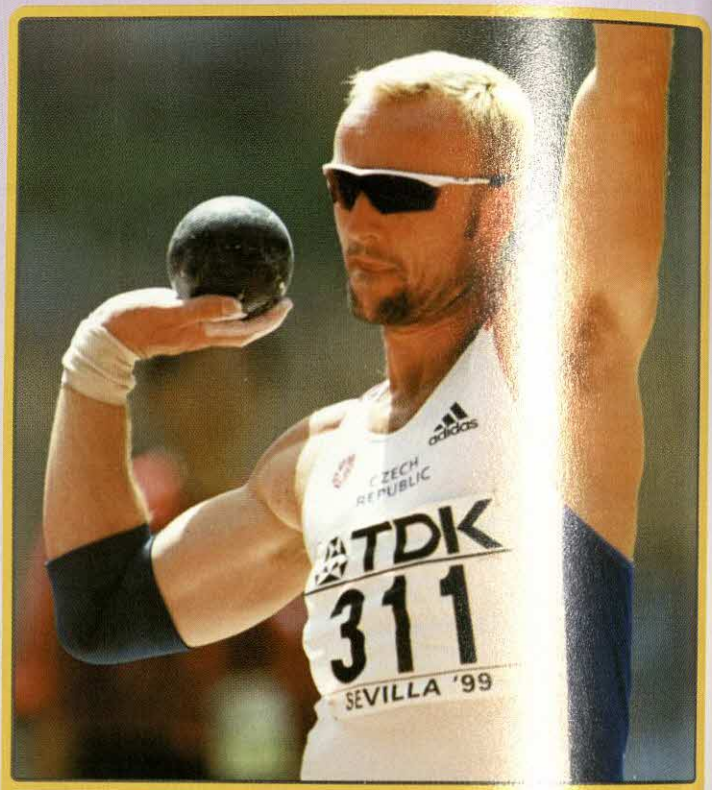
The youngest men's champion was Bob Mathias (USA), who won the decathlon in London, UK, in 1948, aged 17 years 263 days.

YOUNGEST AND OLDEST ATHLETICS RECORD-BREAKERS
Wang Yan (China) was 14 years 334 days old when she set an individual women's 5,000-m walk record of 21 min 33.8 sec in China on 9 March 1986.

The youngest man to break an individual record was Thomas Ray (GB). He pole-vaulted 3.42 m (11 ft 2.5 in) aged 17 years 198 days on 19 Sept 1879.

Marina Styepanova (USSR) set a 400-m hurdle record at Tashkent, USSR (now Uzbekistan) on 17 Sept 1986, aged 36 years 139 days.

Gerhard Weidner (West Germany) set a 20-mile walk record aged 41 years 71 days at Hamburg, Germany, on 24 May 1974.



⊙ MOST DECATHLON POINTS
Tomas Dvorak (Czech Republic) scored a record 8,9[illegible] [illegible]nts in the decathlon in Prague, Czech Republic, on 3-4 July 19[illegible] [illegible] is seen here taking part in the shot event, where he recorded a di[illegible]ce of 16.76 m (54 ft 11.8 in).

⊙ LONGEST JAVELIN THROWS
The longest javelin throw by a woman is 67.09 m (220 ft 1 in), by Mirela Manjani-Tzelili (Greece) in Seville, Spain, on 28 Aug 1999. The men's record is 98.48 m (323 ft 1 in), by Jan Zelezny (Czech Republic) at Jena, Germany, on 25 May 1996.

MOST WORLD TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS
The World Triathlon Championship has been won four times by Simon Lessing (GB): in 1992, 1995, 1996 and 1998.

The most wins in the women's event is two, by Michelle Jones of Australia (1992 and 1993); Karen Smyers of the USA (1990 and 1995); and Emma Carney of Australia (1995 and 1997).

An unofficial World Championship has been held annually in Nice, France, since 1982. The race comprises a 4,[illegible]-m swim (3,200-m prior to 1988), a 120-km bicycle ride and a 32-km run. Mark Allen (USA) has won a record 10 times: from 1982 to 1986 and from 1989 to 1993.

Paula Newby-Fraser (Zimbabwe) has had a record four women's wins: from 1989 to 1992.

BEST WORLD TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP TIMES
The best men's World Championship time is 1 hr 39 min 50 sec, by Simon Lessing (GB) in Cleveland, Ohio, USA, in 1996.

The fastest time by a woman is 1 hr 50 min 52 sec, by Jackie Gallagher (Australia) in Cleveland, Ohio, USA, in 1996.

The record time in the unofficial championship is 5 hr 46 min 10 sec, by Mark Allen (USA) in 1986; and 6 hr 7 min 6 sec, by Erin Baker (New Zealand) in 1988.

LONGEST TRIATHLON
In 17 days 22 hr 1 min between 21 March and 8 April 1998, David Holleran (Australia) completed a triathlon with a record-breaking length of 2,542 km (1,578 miles). It consisted of a 42-km swim, a 2,000-km cycle ride and a 500-km run.

MOST INDOOR PENTATHLON POINTS
The most points in the indoor pentathlon is 4,[illegible]1, by Irina Belova (CIS) in Berlin, Germany, on 14–15 Feb 1[illegible]2. Her results were: 60-m hurdles, 8.22 sec; high jump, 1.9[illegible] (6 ft 4 in); shot, 13.25 m ([illegible] ft 5.5 in); long jump, 6.6[illegible] (21 ft 10.5 in); and 8[illegible], 2 min 10.26 sec.

MOST POINTS IN A HEPTATHLON
The record in the heptathlon is 7,291 points, by Jackie Joyner-Kersee (USA) on 23–24 Sept 1988 at the Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. Her results were: 100-m hurdles, 12.69 sec; high jump, 1.86 m (6 ft 1 in); shot, 15.80 m (51 ft 10 in); 200 m, 22.56 sec; long jump, 7.27 m (23 ft 10 in); javelin, 45.66 m (149 ft 10 in); and 800 m, 2 min 8.51 sec.

The men's record is 6,476 points, by Dan O'Brien (USA) in Toronto, Canada, on 13–14 March 1993. His results were: 60 m, 6.67 sec; long jump, 7.84 m (25 ft 8.5 in); shot, 16.02 m (52 ft 6.5 in); high jump, 2.13 m (6 ft 11.75 in); 60-m hurdles, 7.85 sec; pole vault, 5.20 m (17 ft 0.75 in); and 1,000 m, 2 min 57.96 sec.

HIGHEST POLE VAULTS
The highest indoor pole vault is 6.15 m (20 ft 2 in), by Sergey Bubka (Ukraine) at Donetsk, Ukraine, on 21 Feb 1993. Bubka also holds the record for the outdoor event, with a vault of 6.14 m (20 ft 1.75 in) at Setriere, Italy, on 31 July 1994.

Stacey Dragila (USA) holds both the women's records, with an indoor vault of 4.62 m (15 ft 1.75 in) at Atlanta, Georgia, USA, on 3 March 2000; and an outdoor vault of 4.60 m (15 ft 1 in) in Seville, Spain, on 21 Aug 1999.

LONGEST HAMMER THROWS
The longest hammer throw on record is 86.74 m (284 ft 7 in), by Yuriy Sedykh (USSR) at Stuttgart, Germany, on 30 Aug 1986.

The women's record is 76.07 m (249 ft 7 in), by Mihaela Melinte (Romania) at Rudlingen, Germany, on 29 Aug 1999.

BEST STANDING HIGH JUMPS
The best high jump from a standing position is 1.9 m (6 ft 2.75 in), by Rune Almen (Sweden) at Karlstad, Sweden, on 3 May 1980.

The women's best is 1.52 m (4 ft 11.75 in), by Grete Bjødalsbakka (Norway) in 1984.

BEST STANDING LONG JUMPS
The best standing long jump is 3.71 m (12 ft 2 in), by Arne Tvervaag (Norway) in 1968.

The women's record is 2.92 m (9 ft 7 in), by Annelin Mannes (Norway) on 7 March 1981.

← LONGEST INDOOR TRIPLE JUMPS
Ashia Hansen (GB) set a women's record of 15.16 m (49 ft 8.75 in) in Valencia, Spain, on 28 Feb 1998. The men's record is 17.83 m (58 ft 6 in), by Alliacer Urrutia (Cuba).

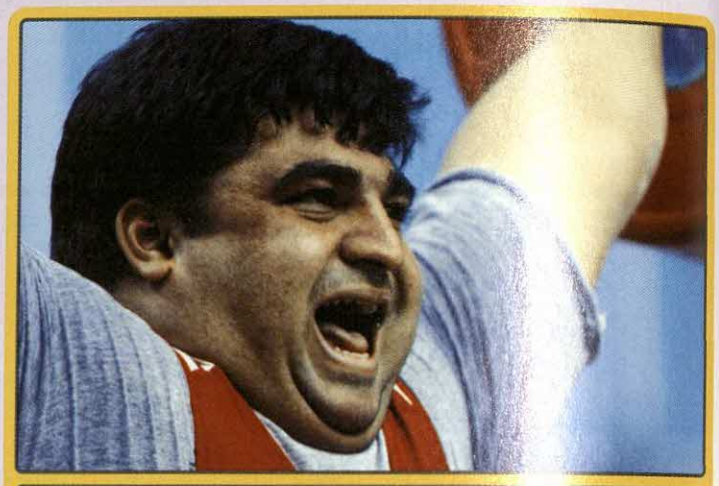
Gymnastics & Weightlifting

MOST OLYMPIC WEIGHTLIFTING MEDALS
Norbert Schemansky (USA) has won a record four Olympic medals: gold in the middle-heavyweight class in 1952; silver in the heavyweight class in 1948; and bronze in the heavyweight class in both 1960 and 1964.

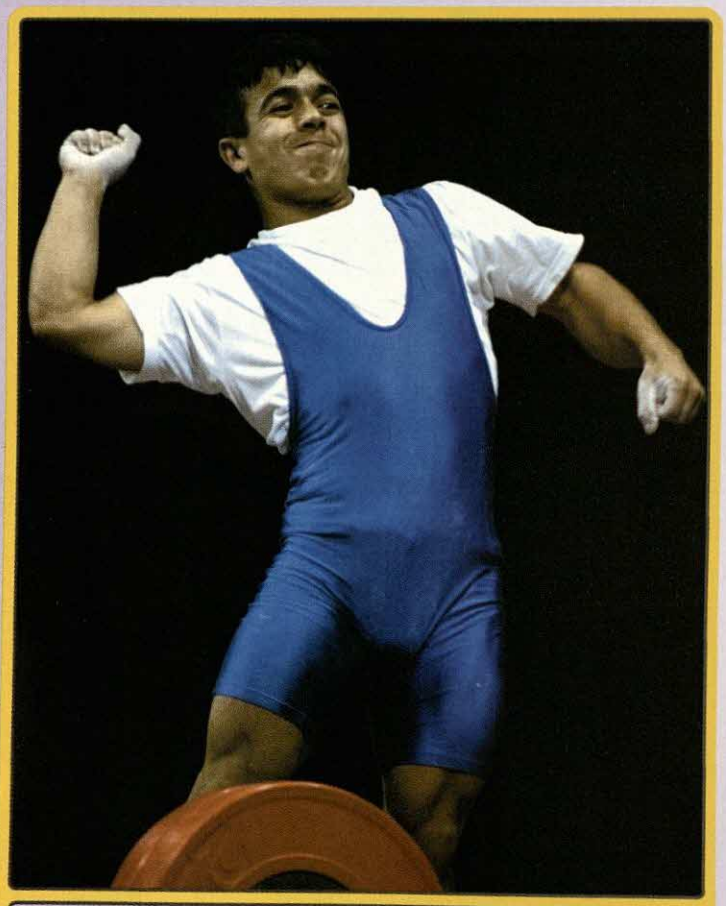
Naim Suleymanoglü (Turkey) has won a record three golds: in 1988 and 1992 at 60 kg; and in 1996 at 64 kg.

MOST OLYMPIC WEIGHTLIFTING EVENTS
Between 1960 and 1976 Imre Földi (Hungary) participated in a record five Games in the 56-kg class, winning gold in 1972.

MOST WEIGHTLIFTING RECORDS BROKEN
Between 24 Jan 1970 and 1 Nov 1977 Vasiliy Alekseyev (USSR) broke 80 official world weightlifting records. He won two Olympic gold medals in this period: in 1972 and 1976.



⊙ WORLD SNATCH RECORD
Hossein Rezazadeh (Iran) snatched 206 kg in the +[illegible]-kg class in Athens, Greece, on 28 Nov 1999. The 21-year-old is only the fourth Iranian to have set a senior weightlifting world record.



⊙ RECORD 56-KG CLASS LIFT
On 22 Nov 1999 Halil Mutlu (Turkey) lifted a total of 302.5 kg, a new record for the 56-kg class, in Athens, Greece. He also holds the 56-kg class records for snatch (187.5 kg, also set at Athens) and for the clean and jerk (166.5 kg, set at Sofia, Bulgaria, on 25 April 2000).

MOST MEN'S WEIGHTLIFTING MEDALS
Naim Suleymanoglü has wona record 10 world titles (including Olympic titles): in 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989 and 1991–96. Born to a Turkish family in Bulgaria, he was forced to take a Bulgarian version of his surname, and competed for Bulgaria as Suleimanov until he defected to Turkey in 1986. He was banned from international competitions for a year after his defection, but subsequently competed for Turkey before retiring in 1997.

MOST WOMEN'S WEIGHTLIFTING MEDALS
Li Hongyun (China) won a record total of 13 medals in the 60/64-kg class between 1992 and 1996.

YOUNGEST WEIGHTLIFTING RECORD-BREAKER
Naim Suleimanov (Bulgaria) was just 16 years 62 days old when he set records for clean and jerk (160 kg) and total (285 kg) in the [illegible]-kg class, at Allentown, New Jersey, USA, on 26 March [illegible].

OLDEST WEIGHTLIFTING RECORD-BREAKER
Norbert Schemansky (USA) was 37 years 333 days old when he snatched a record 362 lb in the then unlimited heavyweight class, in Detroit, Michigan, USA, in 1962.

MOST POWERLIFTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
The most men's world titles is 17, by Hideaki Ibaba (Japan) in the 52-kg class from 1974 to 1983 and from 1985 to 1991.

The most women's world titles is seven, by Natalya Rumyantseva (Russia) at 82.5 kg from 1993 to 1999.

MOST OLYMPIC GYMNASTICS MEDALS
Larisa Latynina (USSR) won a total of 18 medals (nine gold, five silver and four bronze) between 1956 and 1964 – a record for any Olympic discipline.

The men's record is 15 (seven gold, five silver and three bronze), by Nikolay Andrianov (USSR) between 1972 and 1980.

Aleksandr Dityatin (USSR) won a record eight medals (three gold, four silver and one bronze) at one Games, in Moscow, USSR (now Russia), in 1980.

The most individual gold medals won by a woman is seven, by Vera Caslavska-Odlozil (Czechoslovakia): three in Tokyo, Japan, in 1964 and four (one shared) in Mexico in 1968.

MOST WORLD CUP GYMNASTICS TITLES
Nikolay Andrianov, Aleksandr Dityatin, Maria Yevgenyevna (all USSR) and Li Ning (China) have each won two World Cup overall titles.

MOST RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS INDIVIDUAL WORLD TITLES
The most overall individual world titles in rhythmic gymnastics is three, by Maria Gigova (Bulgaria): 1969, 1971 and 1973 (shared) and Maria Petrova (Bulgaria): 1993, 1994 and 1995 (shared).

In 1997 Bianka Panova (Bulgaria) won all four apparatus gold medals, all with maximum scores, and a team gold.

Marina Lobach (USSR) won the rhythmic gymnastics title with perfect scores in all six disciplines at the 1988 Olympic Games.

→ MOST RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS TEAM WORLD TITLES
Bulgaria has won a record nine team titles: in 1969, 1971, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989 (shared), 1993 and 1995. Maria Petrova (right) was a member of both the 1993 and 1995 teams.

YOUNGEST WORLD GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONS
Aurelia Dobre (Romania) won the women's overall world title aged 14 years 352 days at Rotterdam, Netherlands, on 23 Oct 1987.

In 1990 Daniela Silivas (Romania) revealed that she had been born on 9 May 1971, a year later than she had previously claimed, which meant that she was 14 years 185 days old when she won the gold medal for balance beam on 10 Nov 1985.

The youngest male world champion was Dmitriy Bilozerchev (USSR), who was 16 years 315 days old when he won at Budapest, Hungary, on 28 Oct 1983.

YOUNGEST INTERNATIONAL GYMNAST
Pasakevi Voula Kouna (Greece) was just 9 years 299 days old at the start of the Balkan Games held at Serres, Greece, in 1981.

MOST WORLD TRAMPOLINING TITLES
The World Championships, instituted in 1964, have been held biennially since 1968. The most men's titles is five, by Aleksandr Moskalenko (Russia): three individual titles from 1990 to 1994 and two pairs, in 1992 and 1994. Brett Austine (Australia) has also won three individual titles: at double mini from 1982 to 1986.

The women's record is nine titles, achieved by Judy Wills (USA): five individual titles between 1964 and 1969, two pairs, in 1966 and 1967, and two tumbling, in 1965 and 1966.

YOUNGEST TRAMPOLINING COMPETITOR
The youngest competitor in an international trampolining event was Andrea Holmes (GB), who was 12 years 131 days old when she took part in the World Championships in Montana, USA, on 13 May 1982.

Water Sports

⊙ LONGEST YACHT RACE

The Vendée Globe Challenge, which starts and finishes at Les Sables d'Olonne, France, is a record 22,500 nautical miles long (41,652 km, or 25,882 miles). The fastest time in which it has been completed is 105 days 20 hr 31 min, by Christophe Auguin (France, right) in the sloop *Geodis* in 1997.

LOWEST SCORE AT AN OLYMPIC YACHTING REGATTA
The lowest score by the winner of an Olympic regatta is three penalty points (five wins, one second place and one disqualification from seven starts) by *Superdocious* in the Flying Dutchman class at Acapulco Bay, Mexico, in Oct 1968. The yacht was crewed by Rodney Pattisson and Iain Macdonald-Smith (both GB).

MOST OLYMPIC YACHTING GOLDS
The most individual gold medals won is four, by Paul Elvstrøm (Denmark) in the Firefly class in 1948 and in the Finn class in 1952, 1956 and 1960. Elvstrøm also holds the record for being the first sportsperson to win individual titles at four successive Olympic Games.

OLDEST YACHT RACE
The oldest round-the-world sailing competition on record is the quadrennial Whitbread Round the World race, which was inaugurated by the UK's Royal Naval Sailing Association in Aug 1973. The race always starts in England, but the specific course, the number of legs and the location of the stops vary every time.

CLOSEST AMERICA'S CUP RACE
The closest ever finish in an America's Cup race took place on 4 Oct 1980, when *Shamrock II* (GB) finished two seconds ahead of *Columbia* (USA).

MOST INDIVIDUAL AMERICA'S CUP APPEARANCES
Dennis Conner (USA) competed in a record six America's Cups between 1974 and 1995.

MOST AMERICA'S CUP WINS AS SKIPPER
Three skippers have steered their yachts to three America's Cup title wins: Charlie Barr of the USA (1899, 1901 and 1903); Harold Vanderbilt of the USA (1930, 1934 and 1937); and Dennis Conner of the USA (1980, 1987 and 1989).

⊙ FASTEST MALE BACKSTROKE SWIMMER

Lenny Krayzelburg (USA) currently holds five backstroke world records. At the Pan Pacific swimming championships in Sydney, NSW, Australia, in Aug 1999, he took the long-course records for the 50-m (24.99 sec), the 100-m (53.60 sec) and the 200-m (1 min 55.87 sec). He then went on to capture the short-course 100-m and 200-m records in Feb 2000, with times of 51.28 sec and 1 min 52.43 sec respectively.

MOST WORLD WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIP WINS
The most men's World Championship wins is two, by: the USSR (1975 and 1982); Italy (1978 and 1994); and Yugoslavia (1986 and 1991).

MOST WATER POLO GOALS IN AN INTERNATIONAL
The greatest number of goals scored in an international is 13, by Debbie Handley for Australia in their 25–10 win over Canada at the World Championship in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in 1982.

MOST OLYMPIC WATER POLO TITLES
Hungary has won a record six men's team titles: in 1932, 1936, 1952, 1956, 1964 and 1976.

Five men have won three Olympic gold medals: George Wilkinson (GB), in 1900, 1908 and 1912; Paul Radmilovic (GB), in 1908, 1912 and 1920; Charles Sidney Smith (GB), in 1908, 1912 and 1920; Deszö Gyarmati (Hungary) in 1952, 1956 and 1964; and György Kárpáti (Hungary) in 1952, 1956 and 1964.

MOST WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS
The most World Championship medals won is 13, by Michael Gross (West Germany): five gold, five silver and three bronze between 1982 and 1990.

The most medals won by a woman is 10, by Kornelia Ender (GDR): eight gold and two silver between 1973 and 1975.

The most gold medals won by a man is six, by James Montgomery (USA): two individual and four relay from 1973 to 1975.

The most medals won at a single World Championship is seven, by Matthew Biondi (USA): three gold, one silver and three bronze in 1986.

MOST SWIMMING WORLD RECORDS
The most swimming world records set by a woman is 42, by Ragnhild Hveger (Denmark) between 1936 and 1942.

The most records set by a man is 32, by Arne Borg (Sweden) between 1921 and 1929.

The most records set in events that are currently recognized is 26, by Mark Spitz (USA) between 1967 and 1972. The women's record is 23, by Kornelia Ender (GDR) from 1973 to 1976.

MOST OLYMPIC SWIMMING TITLES
The greatest number of individual gold medals won is five, by Krisztina Egerszegi (Hungary): in the 100-m backstroke in 1992, the 200-m backstroke in 1988, 1992 and 1996, and the 400-m medley in 1992.

→ FASTEST WOMEN'S 200-M BREASTSTROKE
On 27 Aug 1999 Penny Heyns (South Africa) achieved a record time of 2 min 23.64 sec in the women's 200-m breaststroke at the Pan Pacific swimming championships in Sydney, NSW, Australia. She beat her own previous record, set the day before, by 0.78 sec.

The most individual gold medals won by a man is four, by: Charles Daniels of the USA (in the 100-m freestyle in 1906 and 1908, the 220-yd freestyle in 1904 and the 440-yd freestyle in 1904); Roland Matthes of the GDR (in the 100-m backstroke and the 200-m backstroke in 1968 and 1972); Tamás Daryni of Hungary (in the 200-m medley and the 400-m medley in 1988 and 1992); Aleksandr Popov of Russia (in the 50-m freestyle and the 100-m freestyle in 1992 and 1996); and Mark Spitz of the USA (see below).

The most golds won by a swimmer is nine, by Mark Spitz: in the 4 x 100-m freestyle and the 4 x 200-m freestyle in 1968, and in the 100-m freestyle, the 200-m freestyle, the 100-m butterfly, the 200-m butterfly, the 4 x 100-m freestyle, the 4 x 200-m freestyle and the 4 x 100-m medley in 1972.

The most golds won by a woman is six, by Kristin Otto (GDR): in the 50-m freestyle, the 100-m freestyle, the 100-m backstroke, the 100-m butterfly, the 4 x 100-m freestyle and the 4 x 100-m medley in 1988.

The most Olympic medals won is 11, by Mark Spitz (nine gold, one silver and one bronze in 1968 and 1972); and Matt Biondi of the USA (eight gold, two silver and one bronze between 1984 and 1992).

MOST WORLD DIVING CHAMPIONSHIP WINS
Greg Louganis (USA) has won a record five world titles: the highboard in 1978, and both the springboard and highboard in 1982 and 1986.

MOST OLYMPIC DIVING MEDALS
The most medals won is five, by Klaus Dibiasi of Italy (three gold and two silver from 1964 to 1976); and Greg Louganis of the USA (four gold and one silver in 1976, 1984 and 1988).

GREATEST DISTANCES SWUM IN 24 HOURS
Anders Forvass (Sweden) swam a record distance of 101.9 km (63.3 miles) in the 25-metre Linköping public swimming pool, Sweden, on 28–29 Oct 1989.

The record in a 50-metre pool is 101.1 km (62.8 miles), by Grant Robinson (Australia) at Mingara Leisure Centre, Tumbi Umbi, NSW, Australia, on 28–29 June 1997.

Ice Hockey

MOST NHL GAMES PLAYED
Gordie Howe took part in a record 1,767 regular season games and 157 play-off games over a record 26 seasons. He played for the Detroit Red Wings from 1946 to 1971, and for the Hartford Whalers in the 1979/80 season. He also played in 419 regular season games and 78 play-off games for the Houston Aeros and the New England Whalers in the World Hockey Association (WHA) from 1973 to 1979, giving him a career total of 2,421 major league games.

MOST NHL CAREER POINTS
Wayne Gretzky (the Edmonton Oilers, the Los Angeles Kings, the St Louis Blues and the New York Rangers) has scored a record 2,857 points from 1,487 NHL regular season and play-off games, a total that comprises 894 goals and 1,963 assists.

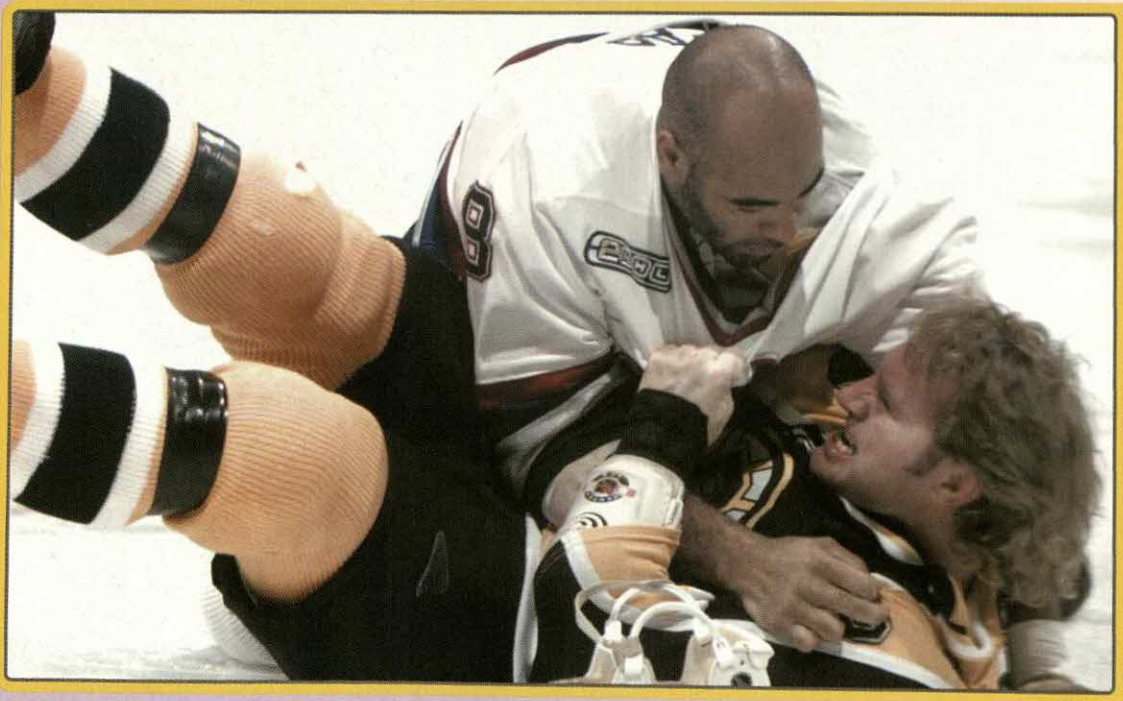
HIGHEST-SCORING GAMES
The highest aggregate score in a World Championship match is 58–0, a record set when Australia beat New Zealand in Perth, Western Australia, on 15 March 1987.

The highest aggregate score in an NHL match is 21, which occurred when the Montréal Canadiens beat the Toronto St Patricks 14–7 on 10 Jan 1920; and when the Edmonton Oilers beat the Chicago Black Hawks 12–9 on 11 Dec 1985.

The most goals scored by one team is 16, a record set when the Montréal Canadiens beat the Québec Bulldogs (3) on 3 Nov 1920.

The most points scored in a US major league game is 10, by Jim Harrison (three goals and seven assists) for Alberta, later the Edmonton Oilers, in a WHA match at Edmonton on 30 Jan 1973. Darryl Sittler also scored 10 (six goals and four assists) for the Toronto Maple Leafs v the Boston

⊙ LONGEST NHL PICK-UP GAME
The 2000 NHL All-Star Game squad No 5 played for a record 1 hr 55 min 41 sec during the Labatt Blue NHL ice hockey pick-up marathon on 2-3 Feb 2000. The event raised money for the charity Hockey Fights Cancer.



⊙ LONGEST BAN FOR AN ON-ICE INFRACTION
In Feb 2000 Marty McSorley of the Boston Bruins (bottom) was suspended for 23 games following an incident during an NHL game in which he hit Donald Brashear of the Vancouver Canucks (top) on the head with his stick. They are seen here fighting earlier in the game, which took place at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on 21 Feb 2000.

Bruins in an NHL match in Toronto, Canada, on 7 Feb 1976.

The most goals in a game is seven, by Joe Malone in the Québec Bulldogs' 9–6 win over the Toronto St Patricks in Québec City, Canada, on 31 Jan 1920.

The most assists in a game is seven, by Billy Taylor for Detroit v Chicago on 16 March 1947; and three times by Wayne Gretzky for Edmonton: against Washington on 15 Feb 1980, against Chicago on 11 Dec 1985 and against Québec on 14 Feb 1986.

MOST TEAM GOALS IN AN NHL SEASON
The most team goals scored in a season is 446 by the Edmonton Oilers in 1983/84, when they also achieved a record 1,182 points.

MOST SUCCESSFUL TEAMS
The Detroit Red Wings won a record 62 games in 1995/96.

The highest percentage of wins in a season is 87.5 achieved by the Boston Bruins in 1929/30 with 38 wins in 44 games.

The longest unbeaten run during a season is 35 games (25 wins and 10 ties), by the Philadelphia Flyers from 14 Oct 1979 to 6 Jan 1980.

FASTEST NHL GOAL
The shortest time taken to score after the opening whistle is five seconds, by Doug Smail for the Winnipeg Jets on 20 Dec 1981. His record was equalled by Bryan Trottier for the New York Islanders on 22 March 1984; and by Alexander Mogilny for the Buffalo Sabres on 21 Dec 1991.

MOST NHL GOALTENDING WINS
Terry Sawchuk played a record 971 games as goaltender for Detroit, Boston, Toronto, Los Angeles and the New York Rangers from 1949 to 1970. In this time, he achieved a record 447 wins (to 330 losses, 172 ties and 22 no-decisions) and had a record 103 career shutouts. Jacques Plante, who had 434 NHL wins, surpassed Sawchuk's overall figure by adding 15 wins in his one season in the WHA, giving him a senior league total of 449 wins from 868 games.

Bernie Parent achieved a record 47 wins, with 13 losses and 12 ties, for Philadelphia in the 1973/74 season.

Gerry Cheevers went a record 32 successive games without defeat for the Boston Bruins in 1971/72.

MOST STANLEY CUP WINS
The Montréal Canadiens have had a record 24 wins from 32 finals: in 1916, 1924, 1930, 1931, 1944, 1946, 1953, 1956–60, 1965, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1971, 1973, 1976–9, 1986 and 1993. Joseph Henri Richard played on a record 11 cup-winning teams between 1956 and 1973.

MOST STANLEY CUP POINTS
Wayne Gretzky has scored a record 382 Stanley Cup points (122 goals and 260 assists) in the course of his career. He also holds the record for the most Stanley Cup points in a season, with 47 in 1985.

→ MOST POINTS IN AN NHL SEASON
The most points in a season is 215, by Wayne Gretzky for the Edmonton Oilers in 1985/86, including a record 163 assists. Gretzky also holds the record for the most goals in a season, with 92 in 1981/82.

Winter Sports 1

MOST MEDALS IN SUMMER AND WINTER OLYMPICS
The only person to have won a gold medal at both the Summer and the Winter Games is Edward Eagan (USA). He took the light-heavyweight boxing title in 1920, and was a member of the winning four-man bobsleigh team in 1932.

The first woman to win a medal at both Games was Christa Luding (West Germany). She took three medals for speed-skating – golds in the 500-m in 1984 and the 1,000-m in 1988, and silver in the 500-m in 1988 – and silver in the cycling sprint in 1988.

MOST WORLD SKI-BOB TITLES
The most individual combined ski-bob titles is four, by Petra Tschach-Wlezcek (Austria) between 1988 and 1991.

The most men's titles is three, by Walter Kronseil (Austria) between 1988 and 1990.

HIGHEST SKI-BOB SPEED
The highest speed attained in a ski-bob is 173 km/h (108 mph), by Romuald Bonvin (Switzerland) at Les Arcs, France, on 2 May 1999.

MOST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SPEED-SKATING TITLES
The most world titles won in women's speed-skating events is eight, by Gunda Niemann-Stirnemann (Germany): 1991–93 and 1995–99.

The greatest number of men's overall titles is five, by Oscar Mathisen of Norway (1908, 1909 and 1912–14); and by Clas Thunberg of Finland (1923, 1925, 1928, 1929 and 1931).

BEST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SPEED-SKATING SCORES
The lowest score with which the men's overall speed-skating title has been won is 152.651 points, by Rintje Ritsma (Netherlands) at Hamar, Norway, on 6–7 Feb 1999.

The lowest score for the women's title is 161.479 points, by Gunda Niemann-Stirnemann (Germany) at Hamar on 6–7 Feb 1999.

MOST OLYMPIC SPEED-SKATING TITLES
The most Olympic speed-skating titles won is six, by Lidiya Pavlovna Skoblikova (USSR): two in 1960 and four in 1964.

The most Olympic golds won by a man is five, by Clas Thunberg of Finland (1924 and 1928, including one shared); and by Eric Heiden of the USA, at the 1980 Games at Lake Placid, New York, USA.

MOST OLYMPIC SPEED-SKATING MEDALS
The most medals won is eight, by Karin Kania (GDR): three golds, four silvers and one bronze between 1980 and 1988.

The most men's medals won is seven, by Clas Thunberg (Finland): five golds, one silver and one shared bronze between 1924 and 1928; and by Ivar Ballangrud (Norway): four golds, two silvers and one bronze between 1928 and 1936.

GREATEST DISTANCE SKATED IN 24 HOURS
Martinus Kuiper (Netherlands) skated a record 546.65 km (339 miles 1,200 yd) in 24 hours from 12 to 13 Dec 1988 at Alkmaar, Netherlands.

LONGEST ICE-SKATING RACE
The world's longest ice-skating race is the *Elfstedentocht* ('Tour of the Eleven Towns'), which was first held in the Netherlands in 1909. Covering a distance of 200 km (124 miles 489 yd), it currently takes place at a number of venues, including Lake Vesijärvi in Finland, the Ottawa River in Canada and Lake Weissensee in Austria. The men's record is 5 hr 40 min 37 sec, by Dries van Wijhe (Netherlands); and the women's record is 5 hr 48 min 8 sec, by Alida Pasveer (Netherlands), both at Lake Weissensee, Austria, on 11 Feb 1989.

MOST WORLD FIGURE-SKATING TITLES
The most men's individual world figure-skating titles is 10, by Ulrich Salchow (Sweden): 1901–05 and 1907–11.

The women's record is also 10, by Sonja Henie (Norway) between 1927 and 1936.

⊙ MOST WORLD CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS
Canada holds the record for both the most women's (11) and the most men's (26) World Championship titles. Pictured above is Canadian skipper Kelly Law, curling her stone down the sheet in the World Curling Championships match against France in Glasgow, UK, on 1 April 2000.

⊙ HIGHEST SOLO FIGURE-SKATING MARKS
Midori Ito of Japan (above) achieved a record seven sixes in the World Women's Championships in Paris, France, in 1962. She matched the record set by Donald Jackson (Canada) in the World Men's Championships in Prague, Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic), in 1962.

MOST FIGURE-SKATING GRAND SLAMS
Three skaters have achieved the figure-skating 'Grand Slam' – the World, Olympic and European titles in the same year – twice. They are: Karl Schäfer of Austria (1932 and 1936); Sonja Henie of Norway (also 1932 and 1936); and Katarina Witt of West Germany (1984 and 1988).

MOST OLYMPIC FIGURE-SKATING TITLES
The most Olympic gold medals won by a figure-skater is three, by Gillis Grafström of Sweden (1920, 1924 and 1928); by Sonja Henie of Norway (1928, 1932 and 1936); and by Irina Rodnina of the USSR. Rodnina won her medals in the pairs, with two different partners – Aleksey Ulanov in 1972, and her husband Aleksandr Zaitsev in 1976 and 1980.

HIGHEST FIGURE-SKATING MARKS
The most sixes awarded in an international championship is 29, to Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean (both GB) at the World Ice Dance Championships in Ottawa, Canada, in March 1984. This total comprised seven in the compulsory dances, a perfect set of nine for presentation in the set pattern dance, and 13 in the free dance.

MOST LUGEING TITLES
The most world lugeing titles (including Olympic titles) is six, by Georg Hackl (Germany), who won the single-seater in 1989, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1997 and 1998.

Margit Schumann (West Germany) has won five women's world titles: 1973–75, 1976 (Olympic) and 1977.

Stefan Krausse and Jan Behrendt (both Germany) have won a record six two-seater titles: 1989, 1991–93, 1995 and 1998.

MOST WORLD BOBSLEIGH TITLES
Eugenio Monti (Italy) won 11 titles – eight two-man and three four-man – between 1957 and 1968.

MOST OLYMPIC INDIVIDUAL BOBSLEIGH MEDALS
The most medals won in individual bobsleigh events is seven, by Bogdan Musiol (GDR, later Germany): one gold, four silver and one bronze between 1980 and 1988 (GDR); and one silver in 1992 (Germany).

The most Olympic gold medals won is three, by Meinhard Nehmer and Bernhard Germeshausen (both West Germany): the 1976 two-man, and the 1976 and 1980 four-man.

HIGHEST LUGEING SPEED
The highest photo-timed lugeing speed is 137.4 km/h (85.4 mph), by Asle Strand (Norway) at Tandådalens Linbana, Sälen, Sweden, on 1 May 1982.

FASTEST CRESTA RUN TIMES
The Cresta Run course at St Moritz, Switzerland, is 1,212 m (3,976 ft) long with a drop of 157 m (515 ft). The fastest time recorded there is 50.09 sec, by James Sunley (GB) on 13 Feb 1999. His average speed was 87.11 km/h (54.13 mph).

MOST CRESTA RUN WINS
The most wins in the Cresta Run Grand National is eight, by Nino Bibbia of Italy (1960–64, 1966, 1968 and 1973); and by Franco Gansser of Switzerland (1981, 1983–86, 1988, 1989 and 1991).

← FASTEST SPEED-SKATER
Jeremy Wotherspoon (Canada) holds each of the records for the 500-m (34.63 sec) and the 1,000-m (1 min 8.49 sec) speed-skating events, both of which he achieved in Calgary, Canada, in Jan 2000.

Winter Sports 2

MOST WORLD ALPINE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES
The World Alpine Championships were inaugurated at Mürren, Switzerland, in 1931. The most titles won by a man is seven, by Toni Sailer (Austria). He won all four Alpine events (giant slalom, slalom, downhill and non-Olympic Alpine combination) in 1956, and downhill, giant slalom and combined in 1958.

The record for the greatest number of titles won by a woman is held by Christl Cranz (Germany). She won seven individual titles – four slalom (1934 and 1937–39) and three downhill (1935, 1937 and 1939) – and five combined (1934, 1935 and 1937–39). She also won the gold medal for the combined at the 1936 Olympics.

⊙ MOST WORLD CUP SNOWBOARDING TITLES
Karine Ruby of France has won a record 11 women's titles: overall from [illegible] to 1998, slalom from [illegible] to 1998, giant slalom from [illegible] to 1998 and snowboard cross in 1997.

LONGEST ALL-DOWNHILL SKI RUN
The longest all-downhill ski run is the Weissfluhjoch-Küblis Parsenn course near Davos, Switzerland, which is 12.23 km (7.59 miles) in length.

⊙ BIGGEST SKI RACE
The Finlandia Ski Race runs 75 km (46.6 miles) from Hämeenlinna to Lahti, Finland. On 26 Feb 1984 it had a record 13,226 starters and 12,909 finishers.

MOST SUCCESSIVE OLYMPIC SKIING TITLES
Ulrich Wehling (West Germany) is the only skier to have won the same event at three successive Games, with golds in the Nordic combined in 1972, 1976 and 1980.

MOST WORLD NORDIC CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES
The greatest number of titles won (including Olympic titles) is 18, by Bjørn Dæhlie (Norway): 12 individual and six relay titles between 1991 and 1998. Dæhlie won a record total of 29 World Nordic Championship medals between 1991 and 1999.

The most women's titles is 17, by Yelena Välbe (Russia): 10 individual and seven relay titles between 1989 and 1998.

The most medals won is 23, by Raisa Smetanina (USSR, later CIS) between 1974 and 1992. This total includes seven gold medals.

LONGEST RACE
The world's longest Nordic ski race is the 89-km (55.3-mile) Vasaloppet in Sweden. There were a record 10,934 starters in March 1977, and a record 10,650 finishers in March 1979. The shortest time taken to complete the race is 3 hr 38 min 57 sec, by Peter Göransson (Sweden) on 1 March 1998.

MOST SKI-JUMPING MEDALS
Birger Ruud (Norway) won a record five medals: in 1931, 1932 and 1935–37. He is the only person to have won Olympic events in both the Alpine and Nordic disciplines, taking the ski-jumping and the Alpine downhill titles in 1936.

LONGEST SKI JUMPS
The longest ski-jump recorded in a World Cup event is 214.5 m (703.3 ft), by Martin Schmitt (Germany) at Planica, Slovenia, on 19 March 1999. This distance was achieved in the second of his two jumps in the competition. His first jump had been measured at 219 m (718.5 ft), but he fell and so the distance was not officially recognized.

The women's record is 112 m (367.5 ft), by Eva Ganster (Austria) at Bischofshofen, Austria, on 7 Jan 1994.

MOST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SKI ORIENTEERING TITLES
Finland have won the women's ski orienteering relay title seven times: in 1975, 1977, 1980, 1988, 1990, 1998 and 2000.

Sweden have won the men's relay title six times: in 1977, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1990 and 1996.

Annika Zell (Sweden) has won a record 14 medals, including six golds.

The most women's individual ski orienteering titles is four, by Ragnhild Bratberg (Norway): the Classic in 1986 and 1990, and the Sprint in 1988 and 1990.

The men's record for the most individual titles is also four, by Nicolo Corradini (Italy): the Classic in 1994 and 1996, and the Sprint in 1994 and 2000.

MOST VERTICAL FEET SKIED
On 29 April 1998 Rob Podivinsky, Luke Sauder, Chris Kent (all Canada) and Dominique Perret (Switzerland) skied a total of 107,777 m (353,600 ft) in 14 hr 30 min. The record was achieved on a slope at Blue River, British Columbia, Canada.

Jennifer Hughes (USA) skied a total of 93,124 m (305,525 ft) at Atlin, British Columbia, Canada, on 20 April 1998.

GREATEST DISTANCE SKIED
Seppo-Juhani Saavalainen (Finland) covered a record distance of 415.5 km (258.2 miles) at Saariselkä, Finland, in 24 hours from 8 to 9 April 1988.

The women's 24-hour record is 330 km (205 miles) by Sisko Kainulaisen (Finland) at Jyväskylä, Finland, from 23 to 24 March 1988.

MOST SNOWBOARDING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES
The most titles won (including Olympic titles) is three, by Karine Ruby (France). She won the giant slalom in 1996, the Olympic title in 1998 and the snowboard cross in 1997. No man has won more than one title.

→ MOST NATIONS' CUP WINS
Alexandra Meissnitzer (Austria) is shown on her way to winning the women's World Cup downhill in Veysonnaz, Switzerland, on 19 Dec 1998. Austria have won the Nations' Cup, awarded on the combined results of individual performances in the World Cup, a record 20 times.

Combat Sports 1

MOST GRECO-ROMAN WORLD WRESTLING TITLES
Aleksandr Karelin (Russia) won a record 12 world titles in the Under 130-kg class between 1988 and 1999.

MOST OLYMPIC WRESTLING MEDALS
Wilfried Dietrich (Germany) has won a record five medals: gold in 1960 (freestyle), silver in 1956 and 1960 (both Greco-Roman) and bronze in 1964 (Greco-Roman) and 1968 (freestyle).

MOST OLYMPIC WRESTLING TITLES
Three Olympic titles have been won by: Carl Westergren of Sweden (1920, 1924 and 1932); Ivar Johansson of Sweden (two in 1932, and 1936); Aleksandr Medved of the USSR (1964, 1968 and 1972); and Aleksandr Karelin of Russia (1988, 1992 and 1996).

LONGEST WRESTLING BOUT
The longest recorded bout lasted 11 hr 40 min, when Martin Klein (Estonia, representing Russia) beat Alfred Asikáinen (Finland) at the Greco-Roman 75-kg 'A' event at the 1912 Olympic Games.

MOST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FENCING TITLES
The most individual world titles is five, by Aleksandr Romankov (USSR), all at foil, in 1974, 1977, 1979, 1982 and 1983.

Christian d'Oriola (France) won four world foil titles (1947, 1949, 1953 and 1954), as well as two individual Olympic titles (1952 and 1956).

Four women foilists have won three world titles: Helene Mayer of Germany (1929, 1931 and 1937); Ilona Schacherer-Elek of Hungary (1934, 1935 and 1951); Ellen Müller-Preis of Austria (1947, 1949 and 1950); and Cornelia Hanisch of West Germany (1979, 1981 and 1985). Ilona Schacherer-Elek also won two individual Olympic titles, in 1936 and 1948.

MOST OLYMPIC FENCING TITLES
Aladár Gerevich (Hungary) won a record seven golds – one individual and six team – between 1932 and 1960.

The women's record is four, by Yelena Novikova (USSR): one individual and three team between 1968 and 1976.

Three individual Olympic titles have been won by: Ramón Fonst of Cuba (1900 and two in 1904); and Nedo Nadi of Italy (1912 and two in 1920). Nadi also won three team golds in 1920, giving him a record five fencing golds at one Games.

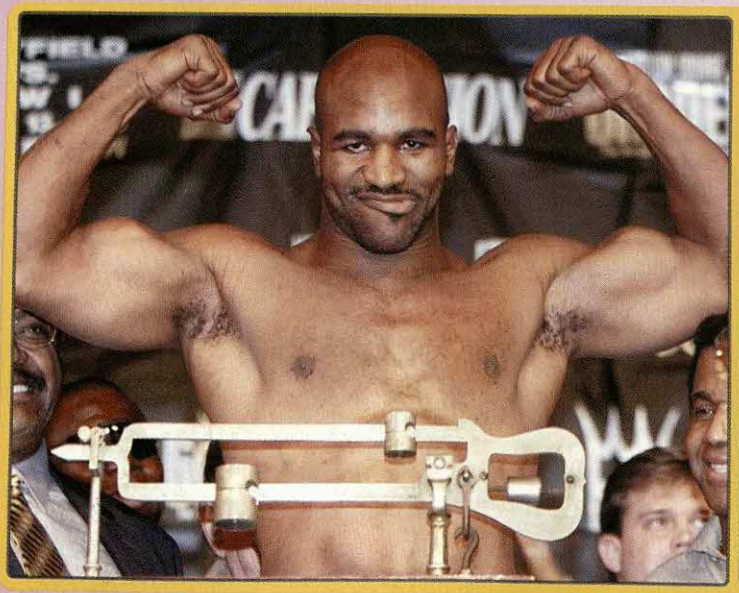
⊙ MOST WOMEN'S OLYMPIC TEAM FENCING GOLDS
The USSR have won a record four gold medals (all at foil): in 1960, 1968, 1972 and 1976. When the épée was introduced in 1996, the French team, which included Valérie Barlois (left), took the title.

MOST OLYMPIC FENCING MEDALS
Edoardo Mangiarotti (Italy) won a record 13 Olympic medals between 1936 and 1960: six gold, five silver and two bronze.

The women's record is seven, by Ildikó Sági of Hungary: two gold, three silver and two bronze between 1960 and 1976.

MOST BOXING TITLES RECAPTURED
The only boxer to have won a world title five times at one weight is 'Sugar' Ray Robinson (USA). He set this record at the Chicago Stadium, Illinois, USA, on 25 March 1958, when he beat Carmen Basilio (USA) to regain the world middleweight title for the fourth time.

MOST BOXING TITLE BOUTS
The record number of title bouts in a career is 37 – 18 of which ended in 'no decision' – by



⊙ MOST HEAVYWEIGHT TITLES RECAPTURED
Two boxers have regained the world heavyweight championship twice: Muhammad Ali and Evander Holyfield (both USA). Here, Holyfield is seen at the weigh-in for his unified heavyweight championship bout against Lennox Lewis (GB) at Madison Square Garden, New York City, USA, on 11 March 1999.

three-time world welterweight champion Jack Britton (USA) between 1915 and 1922.

The record for bouts without 'no decision' outcomes is 34, including a record 31 wins, by Julio César Chavez (Mexico) between 1984 and 1996.

SHORTEST AND LONGEST REIGNS AS BOXING WORLD CHAMPION
Tony Canzoneri (USA) was world light-welterweight champion for just 33 days, from 21 May to 23 June 1933.

Joe Louis (USA) was world heavyweight champion for 11 years 252 days, from 1937 until his retirement in 1949.

YOUNGEST HEAVYWEIGHT BOXING CHAMPION
Mike Tyson (USA) was 20 years 144 days old when he beat Trevor Berbick (USA) to win the WBC championship at Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, on 22 Nov 1986.

LONGEST BOXING MATCHES
The longest recorded fight with gloves took place between Andy Bowen and Jack Burke (both USA) at New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, on 6–7 April 1893. It lasted for 7 hr 19 min (110 rounds), and was declared a no-contest (later changed to a draw).

The longest world title fight under Queensberry Rules took place between lightweights Joe Gans (USA) and Oscar Nelson (Denmark) at Goldfield, Nevada, USA, on 3 Sept 1906. Gans won in the 42nd round on a foul.

BOXING MATCH WITH MOST ROUNDS
A fight between Jack Jones and Patsy Tunney (both UK) in Cheshire, UK, in 1825 had a record 276 rounds. It lasted for 4 hr 30 min.

MOST KNOCK-DOWNS IN A BOXING TITLE FIGHT
Vic Toweel (South Africa) knocked down Danny O'Sullivan (GB) 14 times in 10 rounds, before the latter retired, in their world bantamweight fight in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 2 Dec 1950.

MOST CONSECUTIVE BOXING KNOCK-OUTS
The record for consecutive knock-outs is 44, by Lamar Clark (USA) from 1958 to 1960. On the night of 1 Dec 1958 he knocked out six opponents (five of them in the first round) at Bingham, Utah, USA.

MOST BOXING KNOCK-OUTS IN A CAREER
The greatest number of finishes classed as knock-outs in a career is 145 (129 in professional bouts), by Archie Moore (USA) between 1936 and 1963.

→ OLDEST COMPETITION
The world's oldest continuously sanctioned sporting competition is the Kirkpinar Wrestling Festival, Turkey, which has been held since 1460. The event is staged on the Sarayici Peninsula, near Edirne.

Combat Sports 2

MOST SUCCESSFUL SUMO WRESTLERS
Yokozuna (grand champion) Sadji Akiyoshi, alias Futabayama, had a record 69 consecutive wins between 1937 and 1939.

Yokozuna Koki Naya, alias Taiho, had won the Emperor's Cup 32 times by the time he retired in 1971.

Ozeki (second highest rank) Tameemon Torokichi, alias Raiden, won 254 bouts and lost only 10 in 21 years, giving him a record winning rate of 96.2%.

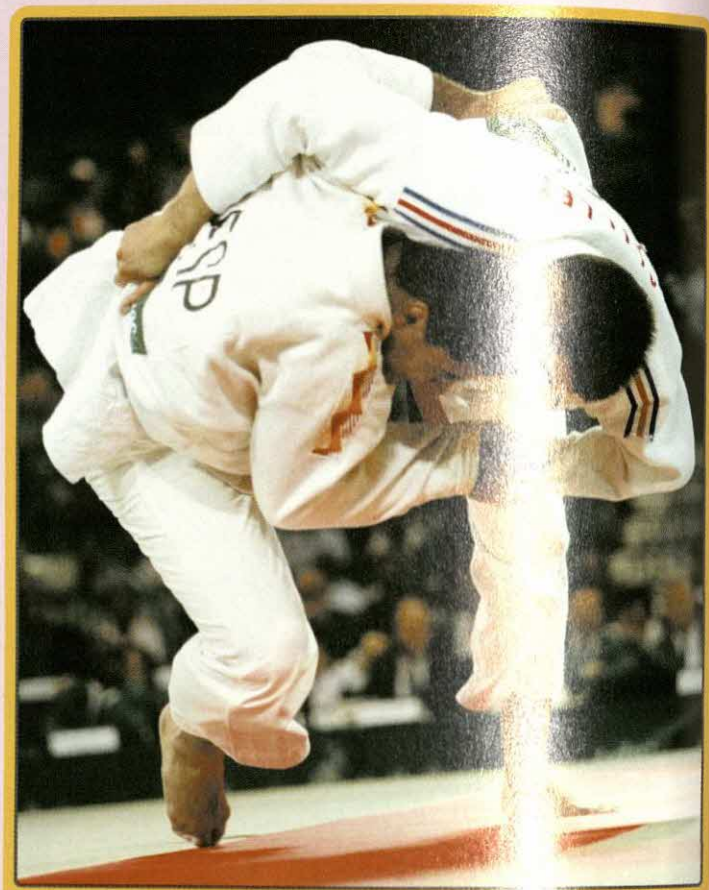
HEAVIEST SUMO WRESTLER
The heaviest *rikishi* (professional sumo wrestler) on record is Samoan-American Salevaa Atisanoe, alias Konishiki, of Hawaii, USA. He weighed in at 267 kg (42 st 1 lb) at Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan (National Arena) on 3 Jan 1994.

MOST SUMO BOUTS
Hawaiian-born Jesse Kuhaulua, alias Takamiyama, fought a record 1,231 consecutive *Makunouchi* (top-division) bouts in July 1972. In Sept 1981 he became the first non-Japanese to win an official *Makunouchi* tournament.

The most bouts in all divisions is 1,631, by Yukio Shoji, alias Aobajo, between 1964 and 1986.

The greatest number of bouts in a career is 1,891, by Kenji Hatano, alias Oshio, between 1962 and 1988.

MOST SUMO BOUT SUCCESSES
Yokozuna Mitsugu Akimoto, alias Chiyonofuji, won the Kyushu *Basho* (one of the six annual sumo tournaments) for eight successive years (1981–1988). He also holds the records for the most career wins (1,045) and the most *Makunouchi* (top-division) wins (807).



⊙ MOST MEN'S JUDO WORLD TITLES
David Douillet (France, left) has won five world and Olympic titles: in the Over 95-kg class in 1993, 1995 and 1997, in the Open in 1995, and in the Olympic Over 95-kg class in 1996. Yasuhiro Yamashita (Japan) has also won five world and Olympic titles: three in the Over 95-kg class, and one each in the Open and the Olympic Over 95-kg class.

⊙ MOST WOMEN'S JUDO WORLD TITLES
Belgian Ingrid Berghmans (bottom) has won a record six women's world titles: in the Open in 1980, 1982, 1984 and 1986, and in the Under 72-kg class in 1984 and 1989. In 1988, when women's judo was introduced as an Olympic demonstration sport, Berghmans won the 72-kg event.

In 1978 Toshimitsu Ogata, alias Kitanoumi, won a record 82 of the 90 bouts that top *rikishi* fight annually. He is also the youngest sumo wrestler to have attained the rank of *yokozuna*, setting this record in July 1974 aged 21 years 61 days.

MOST SUCCESSFUL SUMO BROTHERS
After winning the *Natsu* (summer) *Basho* in 1998, *Ozeki* Wakanohana was promoted to the rank of *yokozuna*, a rank that his younger brother Takanohana had held since 1994. This was the first time in the 1,500-year history of the sport that two brothers had attained this rank. Wakanohana retired in March 2000.

MOST TAE KWON DO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES
The most men's world titles is four, by Chung Kook-hyun (South Korea): in the light-

middleweight class in 1982 and 1983, and in the welterweight class in 1985 and 1987.

The most women's world titles is two, by: Lee Eun-young of South Korea (in the lightweight class in 1987 and 1989); Lynette Love of the USA (in the heavyweight class in 1987 and 1991); Lee Seung-min of South Korea (in the featherweight class in 1993 and 1995); and Jung Myung-suk of South Korea (in the heavyweight class in 1993 and 1995).

MOST TAE KWON DO OLYMPIC TITLES
The most gold medals won in the men's event is two, by Ha Tae-kyung (South Korea): in the flyweight class in 1988, and in the welterweight class in 1992.

The most gold won in the women's event is two, by Chen Yi-an (Taiwan): in the bantamweight class in 1988, and in the lightweight class in 1992.

MOST KARATE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES
Great Britain has won a record six world titles in the men's Kumite team event (inaugurated in 1970): in 1975, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988 and 1990.

The women's team event was inaugurated in 1992. Great Britain have had a record two wins: in 1992 and 1996.

The most individual women's Kumite titles is four, by Guus van Mourik (Netherlands): in the Over 60-kg class in 1982, 1984, 1986 and 1988.

The most Kumite titles won by a man is three, by José Manuel Egea (Spain): in the Open in 1988, and in the Under 80-kg class in 1990 and 1992; and by Wayne Otto (GB): in the Open in 1990, and in the Under 75-kg class in 1992 and 1996.

The most individual women's Kata titles is four, by Yuki Mimura (Japan): in 1988, 1990, 1992 and 1996.

The most individual men's Kata titles is three, by Tsuguo Sakumoto (Japan): in 1984, 1986 and 1988.

A Kata team event was introduced at the 1986 World Championships. Since then, Japan have failed to win just two World Championship titles: the men's in 1990, which was won by Italy; and the women's in 1986, which was won by Taiwan.

MOST JUDO OLYMPIC TITLES
The most gold medals won in the men's event is two, by: Wilhelm Ruska of the Netherlands (in the Over 93-kg class and the Open in 1972); Peter Seisenbacher of Austria (in the 86-kg class in 1984 and 1988); Hitoshi Saito of Japan (in the Over 95-kg class in 1984 and 1988); and Waldemar Legien of Poland (in the 78-kg class in 1988, and in the 86-kg class in 1992). No woman has won more than one gold medal.

→ BIGGEST SUMO GRAND CHAMPION
Hawaiian-born Chad Rowan, alias Akebono, is the tallest and heaviest *yokozuna* (grand champion) in sumo history. He is 2.04 m (6 ft 8 in) tall and weighs 227 kg (36 st 3 lb). In Jan 1993 Akebono became the first foreign *rikishi* to be promoted to the rank of *yokozuna*.

Extreme Sports 1

⊙ BEST-ATTENDED EXTREME SPORTS EVENT
The 1999 ESPN Summer X-Games, held in San Francisco, California, USA, were attended by a record 268,000 spectators over 10 days. The X-Games were inaugurated in 1994, and have grown to become the largest extreme sports showcase in the world, in terms of both audience (live and television) and prize money. Clifford Adoptante (USA) is seen here in action during the Freestyle Motocross event.

FASTEST STREET SKIER
The highest speed achieved downhill on a public road by a street skier is 101 km/h (63 mph), by Douglas Lucht (USA) on Golden Eagle Boulevard, Fountain Hills, Arizona, USA, on 7 March 1998. To meet street skiing guidelines, Lucht had to wear ski bindings and boots attached to in-line wheeled frames that did not exceed 107 cm (42 in) in length.

FASTEST SKATEBOARDERS
The highest speed ever recorded by a skateboarder is 126.12 km/h (78.37 mph), by Roger Hickey (USA) on a course near Los Angeles, California, USA, on 15 March 1990. He was riding in a prone position.

The standing position record is 100.66 km/h (62.55 mph), by Gary Hardwick (USA) at Fountain Hills, Arizona, USA, on 26 Sept 1998.

LONGEST SKATEBOARD JUMP
On 12 Oct 1999 Andy Macdonald (USA) set a long jump record of 16.1 m (52 ft 10 in), clearing four cars, in East Lansing, Michigan, USA.

HIGHEST AIR
Danny Way (USA) stuck a 5-m-high (16-ft 6-in) air (method air) jump from a halfpipe at Brown Field, San Diego, California, USA, on 3 Aug 1998.

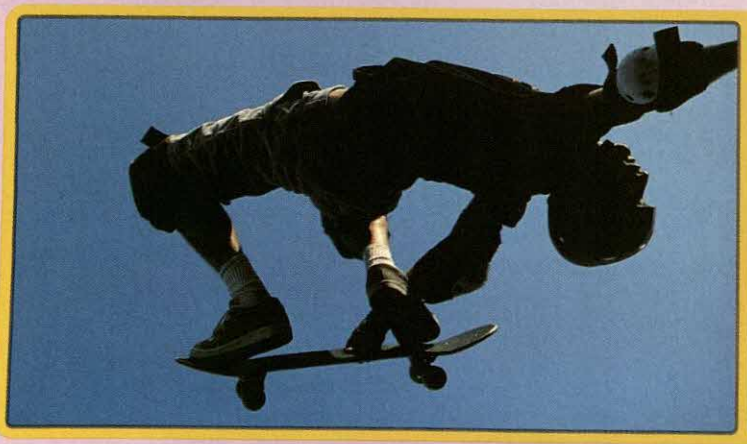
LONGEST DISTANCE SKATEBOARDING
On 4–5 Nov 1997 Eleftherios Argiropoulos (Greece) covered 436.6 km (271.3 miles) in 36 hr 33 min 17 sec at Ekali, Greece.

FASTEST BUTT BOARDER
Darren Lott (USA) achieved a speed of 105 km/h (65 mph) on a butt board at Fountain Hills, Arizona, USA, on 26 Sept 1998.

FASTEST IN-LINE SKATERS
Graham Wilkie and Jeff Hamilton (both USA) each achieved a speed of 103.03 km/h (64.02 mph) in Arizona, USA, on 26 Sept 1998.

FASTEST SANDBOARDERS
Erik Johnson (USA) achieved a speed of 82 km/h (51 mph) during the Sand Master Jam at Dumont Dunes, California, USA, on 12 April 1999.

The fastest female sandboarder is Nancy Sutton (USA), who achieved a speed of 71.94 km/h (44.7 mph) at Sand Mountain, Nevada, USA, on 19 Sept 1998.



⊙ MOST ROTATIONS IN AIR OFF A HALFPIPE
During the 1999 X-Games, held in San Francisco, California, USA, Tony Hawk (USA) completed the first ever mid-air 900° skateboarding trick.

MOST MOUNTAINBOARDING WORLD TITLES
Jason T Lee (USA) has won two World Championship titles: in 1997 and 1998.

FASTEST GRAVITY SPEED BIKER
Alternative International Sports, the sanctioning body for gravity speed biking, recognizes Dwight Garland (USA) as the fastest rider after he achieved a speed of 103 km/h (64 mph) on 26 Sept 1998. A gravity speed bike has a tubular steel chassis, front and rear brakes and a fairing to increase aerodynamic efficiency. It runs on pneumatic racing slicks.

FASTEST CYCLIST ON A GLACIER
The fastest speed ever attained cycling down a glacier is 212.12 km/h (131.82 mph), by Christian Taillefer (France) on a Peugeot Cycle at the Speed Ski Slope, Les Wars, France, in March 1998.

MOST X-GAMES SNOW MOUNTAIN BIKING MEDALS
The most medals won for snow mountain biking is three, by Cheri Elliott (USA): the 1997 gold speed medal and the 1998 silver speed and silver difficulty medals.

MOST X-GAMES SNOWBOARDING MEDALS
The most X-Games snowboarding medals won by a woman is six, by Barrett Christy (USA) in 1998 and 1999.

The men's record is three, by Shaun Palmer (USA): gold medals in the Boarder X discipline in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

MOST X-GAMES SKIBOARDING MEDALS
Mike Nick (USA) won a gold medal in the 1998 X-Games Slopestyle event and a silver medal in the 1999 Triple Air discipline.

MOST X-GAMES ICE CLIMBING GOLD MEDALS
Will Gadd (USA) has won a record three X-Games gold medals for ice climbing: the difficulty medal in 1998 and 1999, and the speed medal in 1998.

The women's record is also three, by Kim Csizmazia (USA): the difficulty medal in 1998 and 1999, and the speed medal in 1998.

BIGGEST SKATEPARK
The Vans Skatepark at Potomac Mills Mall, Prince William, Virginia, USA, covers an area of 5,726.5 m² (61,640 ft²). The park was opened to the public on 15 April 2000.

SKATING GLOSSARY

aciddrop: Skating off an object with an ollie or touching the board with your hands.
air: Riding with all four wheels off the ground; short for 'aerial'.
fat: Also 'phat'. High or far, denoting a board trick performed over a great distance or height. *"Now that was a* fat *jump!"*
grind: Scraping one or both axles on a kerb, rail or other object. There are many variations of this trick.
halfpipe: A U-shaped ramp, usually with a flat section in the middle.
impossible: A trick that involves spinning the board around either foot while in the air.
ollie: A jump performed by tapping the tail (rear) of the board on the ground.
shoveit: Turning the board without turning your body; shoving the board around so that it spins under your feet.
sick: Good. Used in the same way as 'wicked' or 'rad'. *"That trick she pulled was* sick*!"*
stoked: A feeling of having done something well. *"You must be pretty* stoked *after pulling off that trick!"*

← HIGHEST OLLIE
On 6 Feb 2000 Danny Wainwright (UK) popped a record-breaking ollie of 113 cm (44.48 in) off flat ground to win the Reese Forbes Ollie Challenge at the ASR Show, Long Beach, California, USA.

Extreme Sports 2

LONGEST SWIM UNDER ICE WITHOUT EQUIPMENT
Wim Hof (Netherlands) swam a record distance of 57 m (187 ft) under ice in a lake near the Finnish village of Kolari on 16 March 2000. He did not use any special equipment, but wore only swimming trunks and a pair of goggles.

LONGEST UNDERWATER SWIMS WITH EQUIPMENT
In a 24-hour period from 21 to 22 Feb 1985, Paul Cryne (UK) and Samir Sawan al Awami (Qatar) swam 78.92 km (49.04 miles) from Doha to Umm Said, both Qatar, and back again, using sub-aqua equipment. They were underwater for 95.5% of the time.

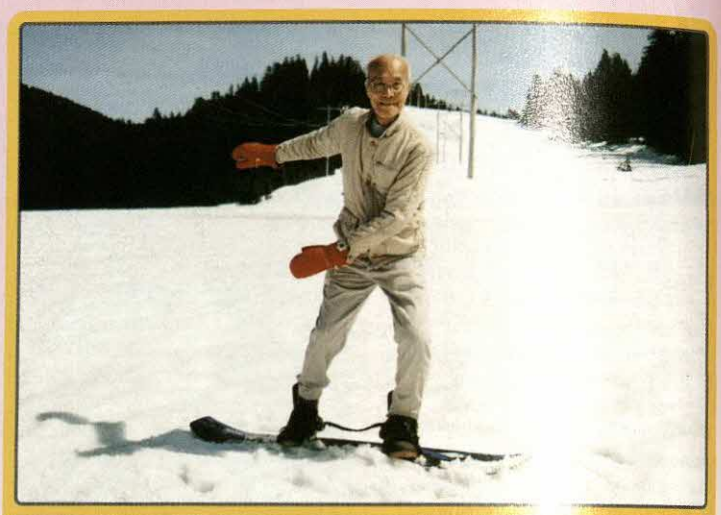
On 17–18 Oct 1987 a relay team of six people swam underwater for a total distance of 151.98 km (94.44 miles), using sub-aqua equipment, in a swimming-pool in Olomouc, Czechoslovakia.

HIGHEST-EARNING SURFERS
Kelly Slater (USA) earned a record $708,230 (£427,314) in the course of his surfing career. He retired at the end of the 1998 season.

The women's career earnings record is $296,875 (£180,200), by Pam Burridge (Australia).

MOST WORLD PROFESSIONAL SERIES SURFING TITLES
The World Professional series was inaugurated in 1975. The men's title has been won a record six times by Kelly Slater (USA): in 1992 and from 1994 to 1998.

The women's professional title has been won a record four times by: Frieda Zamba of the USA (1984–1986 and 1988); Wendy Botha of Australia, formerly South Africa (1987, 1989, 1991 and 1992); and Lisa Andersen of Australia (1994–97).



⊙ OLDEST SNOWBOARDER
The oldest person to snowboard regularly is 80-year-old Wong Yui Hoi, who was born in China in Jan 1920 and now lives in Canada. He took up snowboarding in 1995.

⊙ LONGEST SANDBOARDING BACK FLIP
On 20 May 2000 Josh Tenge from Incline Village, Nevada, USA, performed a back flip measuring a record 13.6 m (44 ft 10 in). The record was set at the X-West Huck Fest, Sand Mountain, Nevada.

MOST WORLD AMATEUR SURFING CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES
The World Amateur Surfing Championships were inaugurated in May 1964. The most wins is three, by Michael Novakov (Australia): in the Kneeboard event in 1982, 1984 and 1986.

MOST BODYBOARDING CHAMPIONSHIPS
Mike Stewart (USA) has won nine World Championships, eight national tour titles and 11 pipeline championships.

MOST KNEEBOARDING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES
Mario Fossa (Venezuela), known to his fans as the 'King Of Dizzy', won five consecutive Pro Tour titles between 1987 and 1991. Kneeboarders perform tricks while kneeling on a short, squat board.

HIGHEST-LATITUDE WINDSURF
On 14 July 1985 Gerard-Jan Goekoop (Netherlands), the doctor on the Dutch expedition ship *Plancius*, windsurfed alongside the pack ice of the North Pole at a latitude of 80° N.

MOST WHITE WATER FREESTYLE KAYAKING TITLES
Germany has won a record two white water freestyle kayaking world titles: in 1991 and 1995.

HIGHEST BUNGEE JUMP FROM A BUILDING
On 5 Oct 1998 A. Hackett (New Zealand) made a 180.1-m (590-ft 10-in) bungee jump off the Sky Tower Casino, the tallest building in Auckland, New Zealand. He attached himself to two steel cables to avoid hitting the tower.

BIGGEST MASS BUNGEE JUMP
On 6 Sept 1998 a record 25 people made a bungee jump from a 52-m (171-ft) platform suspended in front of the Deutsche Bank headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany. The jump was part of a 'skyscraper festival' organized by Frankfurt City Council.

MOST PARACHUTE DESCENTS
Don Kellner (USA) holds the record for the most parachute descents, having made a total of 29,000 by 7 March 2000.

Cheryl Stearns (USA) holds the women's record with 13,500 descents, mainly over the USA, made to June 2[illegible]3.

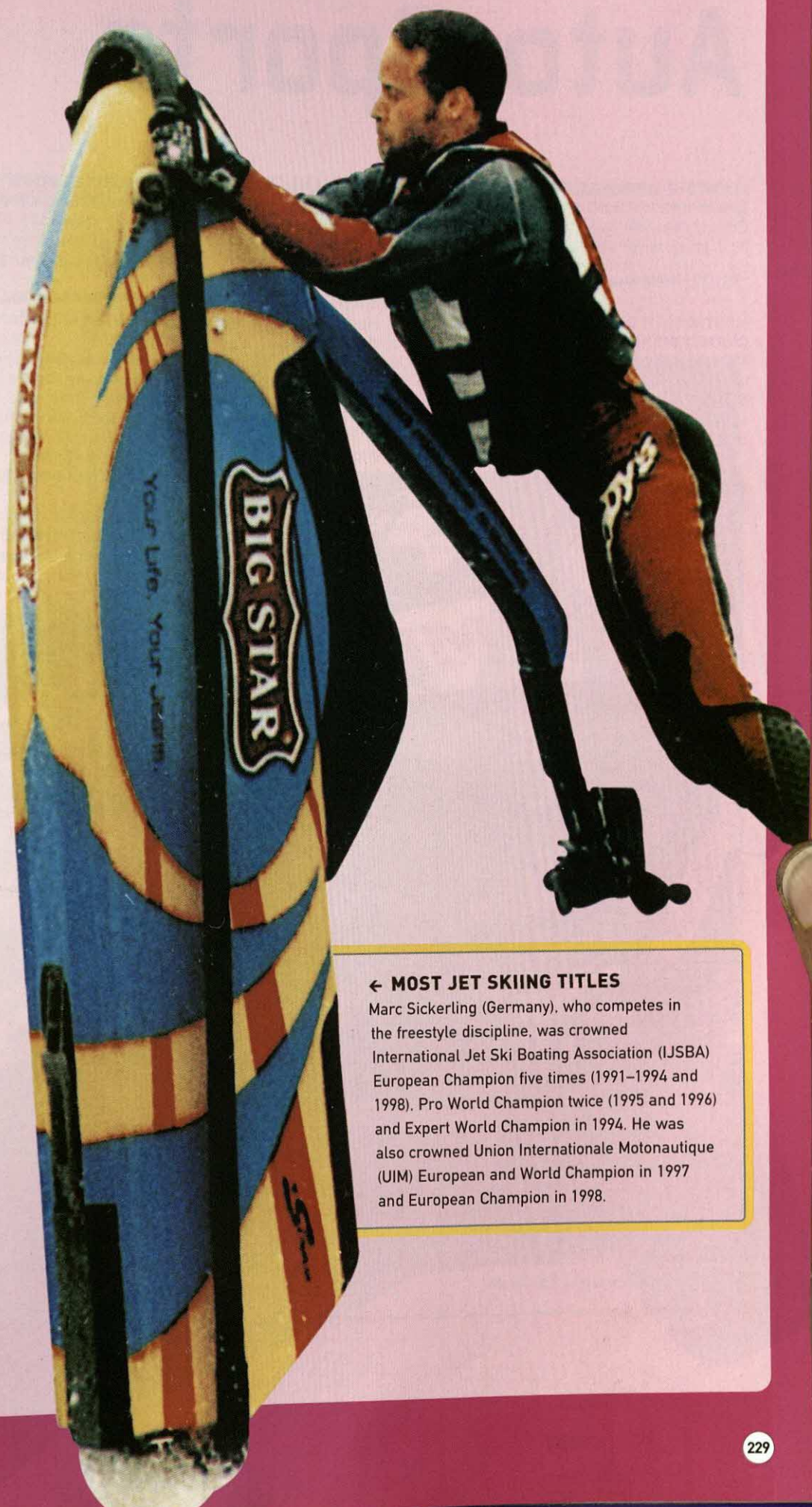
The most descents in 24 hours, in accordance with the rules of the United States Parachute Association (USPA), is 476, by Jay Stokes (USA) at Yuma, Arizona, USA, from 12 to 13 Nov 1999.

BIGGEST MASS PARACHUTE JUMP FROM A BALLOON
On 22 April 200[illegible] a record 20 skydivers from the Paraclub Flevo in Lelystad, Netherlands, jumped from a Cameron A-415 PH-AGT balloon over Harfsen, Netherlands. Twelve of the skydivers jumped at the same time, thereby setting an additional record – the biggest simultaneous parachute jump from a balloon.

MOST FOUR-MAN TEAM FORMATIONS IN A SKYDIVE
On 23 Sept 199[illegible] four members of the Arizona Airborne Team, USA – Daniel Brodsky-Chenfeld, Jack Jeffries, Mark [illegible]by and Kirk Verners – arranged themselves into 39 formations while skydiving during the 199[illegible] US Formation Skydiving Championships, Sebastian, Florida, USA.

BIGGEST FORMATION FREEFALL
On 16 Dec 1999 a total of 282 skydivers, members of the World Team '99 (USA), came together for 7.11 seconds in the sky above Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand, to make the world's largest freefall formation.

BIGGEST MASS FREEFALL
On 18 April 2000 a total of 588 parachutists exited at 3,657.4 m (12,000 ft) from seven aircraft flying in formation over Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



← MOST JET SKIING TITLES
Marc Sickerling (Germany), who competes in the freestyle discipline, was crowned International Jet Ski Boating Association (IJSBA) European Champion five times (1991–1994 and 1998), Pro World Champion twice (1995 and 1996) and Expert World Champion in 1994. He was also crowned Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) European and World Champion in 1997 and European Champion in 1998.

Auto Sports

YOUNGEST WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER
Colin McRae (GB) was 27 years 89 days old when he won the 1995 World Rally Championship title.

MOST WORLD DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP WINS
The World Drivers' Championship has been won a record four times by two drivers: Juha Kankkunen of Finland (1986, 1987, 1991 and 1993); and Tommi Makinen, also of Finland (1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999).

MOST CONSECUTIVE WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIPS
Tommi Makinen and his co-driver Risto Mannisenmaki (both Finland) have won a record four consecutive World Rally Championship titles: in 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999.

⊙ YOUNGEST WINNER OF A WORLD DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP POINT
On 26 March 2000 Jensen Button (GB) became the youngest driver to claim a Formula One World Drivers' Championship point, at the age of 20 years 67 days. Button, who was driving with the Williams team in his first season of Formula One, had finished sixth in the Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos, São Paulo.

MOST MANUFACTURERS' WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WINS
Lancia won a record 11 Manufacturers' World Championships between 1972 and 1992.

MOST MONTE CARLO RALLY WINS
The Monte Carlo Rally has been won four times by: Sandro Munari of Italy (1972, 1975, 1976 and 1977); and by Walter Röhrl and his co-driver Christian Geistdorfer, both of West Germany (1980 and 1982–84).

LONGEST RALLY
The longest rally on record was the 1977 Singapore Airlines London–Sydney Rally, which covered 31,107 km (19,330 miles) from Covent Garden, London, UK, to Sydney Opera House, NSW, Australia. It was won by Andrew Cowan, Colin Malkin and Michael Broad (all GB) in a Mercedes 280E.

FASTEST LAPS AT LE MANS
The fastest ever lap in the Le Mans 24-hour race is 3 min 21.27 sec, by Alain Ferté (France) in a Jaguar XJR-9LM, on 10 June 1989. His average speed over the 13.536-km (8-mile 724-yd) course was 242.093 km/h (150.429 mph).

Hans Stück (West Germany) set the fastest practice lap speed record – 251.664 km/h, or 156.381 mph – on 14 June 1985.

MOST LE MANS WINS
The most Le Mans wins by a manufacturer is 16, by Porsche: 1970, 1971, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1981–87, 1993 and 1996–98.

The most wins by an individual is six, by Jacky Ickx (Belgium): 1969, 1975–77, 1981 and 1982.

GREATEST DISTANCE COVERED IN A LE MANS RACE
Dr Helmut Marko (Austria) and Gijs van Lennep (Netherlands) covered a distance of 5,335.302 km (3,315 miles 517 yd) in a 4,9[illegible]-cc flat-12 Porsche 917K Group 5 sports car on 12–13 June 1971.

The greatest distance covered on the current circuit is 5,331.998 km (3,313 miles 423 yd), by Jan Lammers (Netherlands), Johnny Dumfries (GB) and Andy Wallace (GB) in a Jaguar XJR-9LM on 11–12 June 1988. Their average speed was 222.166 km/h (138.047 mph).

MOST SUCCESSFUL INDIANAPOLIS 500 DRIVERS
Three drivers have each won the Indianapolis 500-mile (804-km) race four times: AJ

⊙ FASTEST FUNNY CAR DRAG RACER
John Force (USA) reached a record speed of 521.507 km (324.059 mph) from a 402-m (440-yd) standing start in a '99 Ford Mustang at Gainsville, Florida, USA, on 21 March 1999.

Foyt Jr of the USA (1961, 1964, 1967 and 1977); Al Unser Sr of the USA (1970, 1971, 1978 and 1987); and Rick Mears of the USA (1979, 1984, 1988 and 1991).

BEST INDIANAPOLIS 500 STARTING STATISTICS
AJ Foyt Jr (USA) started a record 35 consecutive Indianapolis 500 races between 1958 and 1992.

FASTEST INDIANAPOLIS 500 RACE
Arie Luyendyk (Netherlands) won in 2 hr 41 min 18.404 sec on 27 May 1990, driving a Lola-Chevrolet. His average speed was 299.307 km/h (185.986 mph).

FASTEST INDIANAPOLIS 500 QUALIFYING LAPS
The highest average speed over the four qualifying laps is 381.392 km/h (236.992 mph), including a one-lap record of 382.216 km/h (237.505 mph), by Arie Luyendyk (Netherlands) in a Reynard-Ford-Cosworth on 12 May 1996.

MOST SUCCESSFUL GRAND PRIX MANUFACTURERS
The greatest number of Grand Prix championships won by a manufacturer is nine, by Williams (1980, 1981, 1986, 1987, 1992–94, 1996 and 1997); and by Ferrari (1961, 1964, 1975–77, 1979, 1982, 1983 and 1999).

The McLaren team won 15 of the 16 Grand Prix races in the 1988 season: Ayrton Senna (Brazil) won eight and Alain Prost (France) won seven. The McLaren Formula One cars, powered by Honda engines, amassed more than three times the points of their nearest rivals, Ferrari.

MOST GRAND PRIX VICTORIES
Alain Prost (France) had a record 51 wins from 199 Grand Prix races between 1980 and 1993. In the course of his career, he gained a record 798.5 Grand Prix points.

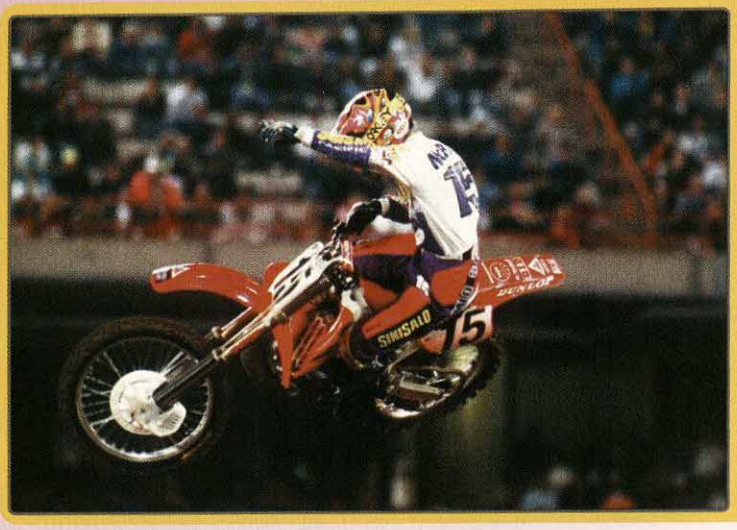
↓ MOST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WINS
Juha Kankkunen of Finland (right) won a record 23 World Championship races between 1989 and 1999. He is seen below in his Subaru Impreza, during the Argentinian rally in May 2000.

Bike Sports

MOST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CYCLING TITLES
Koichi Nakano (Japan) won 10 consecutive professional sprint titles (1977–86).

The most wins in a men's amateur event is seven, by Daniel Morelon (France) for sprint in 1966, 1967, 1969–71, 1973 and 1975; and by Leon Meredith (GB) for the 100-km motor-paced in 1904, 1905, 1907–09, 1911 and 1913.

The most women's titles is 11, by Jeannie Longo-Ciprelli (France): for pursuit in 1986, 1988 and 1989; for road in 1985–87, 1989 and 1995; for points in 1989; and for time-trial in 1995 and 1996.



⊙ MOST SUPERCROSS WINS
Jeremy McGrath (USA) is seen here winning the American Motorcycle Association (AMA) Supercross Championship 250 cc title at Anaheim Stadium, California, USA, in 1995. He has won the title a record six times (1993–1996, 1998 and 1999). He has also won the World Supercross title twice: in 1994 and 1995.

MOST OLYMPIC CYCLING MEDALS
The most titles won at a single Games is three, by: Paul Masson (France) in 1896; Francisco Verri (Italy) in 1906; and Robert Charpentier (France) in 1936.

Daniel Morelon (France) won two gold medals in 1968 and a third in 1972; he also won a silver in 1976 and a bronze in 1964. Marcus Hurley (USA) won four events in the 'unofficial' 1904 cycling programme.

⊙ FASTEST OLYMPIC 1 KM
On 24 July 1996 Florian Rousseau (France) set an Olympic cycling record of 1 min 2.712 sec for the men's 1-km unpaced standing start in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

BEST-ATTENDED SPORTING EVENT
An estimated 10 million people turn out to watch the annual Tour de France cycle race, which takes place over three weeks.

MOST TOUR DE FRANCE WINS
The greatest number of wins in the Tour de France is five, by: Jacques Anquetil of France (1957 and 1961–64); Eddy Merckx of Belgium (1969–72 and 1974); Bernard Hinault of France (1978, 1979, 1981, 1982 and 1985); and Miguel Induráin of Spain (1991–95).

FASTEST TOUR DE FRANCE SPEED
The fastest average speed in the Tour de France is 40.276 km/h (25.027 mph), by Lance Armstrong (USA) in 1999.

CLOSEST TOUR DE FRANCE RACE
The closest Tour de France race on record took place in 1989, when Greg LeMond (USA) beat Laurent Fignon (France) by just eight seconds. LeMond's time was 87 hr 38 min 35 sec.

MOST TOUR OF SPAIN WINS
The most wins in the Tour of Spain is three, by Tony Rominger (Switzerland) between 1992 and 1994.

MOST TOUR OF ITALY WINS
The greatest number of wins in the Tour of Italy is five, by: Alfredo Binda of Italy (1925, 1927–29 and 1933); Fausto Coppi of Italy (1940, 1947, 1949, 1952 and 1953); and Eddy Merckx of Belgium (1968, 1970 and 1972–74).

MOST TOUR OF BRITAIN WINS
Four riders have won the Tour of Britain twice: Bill Bradley of the UK (1959 and 1960); Leslie West of the USA (1965 and 1967); Fedor den Hertog of the Netherlands (1969 and 1971); and Yuriy Kashkarin of the USSR (1979 and 1982).

LONGEST ONE-DAY CYCLE RACE
The longest single-day 'massed start' road race is the 551 to 620-km (342 to 385-mile) race from Bordeaux to Paris, France. The highest average speed achieved in the event is 47.186 km/h (29.32 mph), by Herman van Springel (Belgium) in 1981. He covered 584.5 km (363.2 miles) in 13 hr 35 min 18 sec.

MOST WORLD MOTORCYCLE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES
The most World Championship titles won is 15, by Giacomo Agostini (Italy): seven at 350 cc

from 1968 to 1974, and eight at 500 cc (1966–1972 and 1975). Agostini also holds the record for the only man to have won two world titles in five consecutive years.

Angel Roldan Nieto (Spain) has won a record seven 125 cc titles: in 1971, 1972, 1979 and 1981–84. He has also won a record six 50 cc titles: in 1969, 1970, 1972 and 1975–77.

Phil Read (GB) won a record four 250 cc titles: in 1964, 1965, 1968 and 1971.

Rolf Biland (Switzerland) has won seven world sidecar titles: in 1978, 1979, 1981–1983 and 1992–94.

The most wins in a single class in one season is 12, by Michael Doohan (Australia) in the 500 cc class in 1997.

The most successful manufacturer is Honda (Japan), whose machines won 48 World Championships between 1961 and 1999.

OLDEST MOTORCYCLE RACE
The oldest annually-contested motorcycle race in the world is the Auto-Cycle Union Tourist Trophy (TT) series.

First held on the 25.44-km (15.81-mile) 'Peel' (St John's) course on the Isle of Man in 1907, it has been run on the island's 'Mountain' circuit, which has 264 curves, since 1911. The race speed record is 1 hr 51 min 59.6 sec, set by Steve Hislop (GB) on 12 June 1992, when he won the Senior TT on a Norton motorcycle. His average speed was 195.17 km/h (121.28 mph).

MOST ISLE OF MAN TT EVENTS WON
Joey Dunlop (Ireland) had a record 23 victories in the Isle of Man TT races between 1977 and 1998.

The most events won in one year is four, by Phillip McCallen (Ireland): the Formula One, Junior, Senior and Production events in 1996.

← FASTEST TOUR DE FRANCE STAGE
On 7 July 1999 Mario Cipollini (Italy) won the Tour de France's fourth regular stage, which runs 194 km (120 miles) between Laval and Blois, with an average speed of 50.36 km/h (31.29 mph).

MOST MOTOCROSS WINS
Joël Robert (Belgium) has won six 250 cc Motocross World Championship titles: in 1964 and from 1968 to 1972. Between 25 April 1964 and 18 June 1972 he also won a record 50 250 cc Grand Prix titles.

MOST WORLD SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIP WINS
The World Speedway Championship was inaugurated at Wembley, London, UK, on 10 Sept 1936. The most wins is six, by Ivan Mauger (New Zealand): in 1968–70, 1972, 1977 and 1979.

The former World Team Cup was won a record nine times, by England/Great Britain (Great Britain in 1968 and 1971–73; and England in 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980 and 1989); and by Denmark in 1978, 1981, 1983–88 and 1991.

Barry Briggs (NZ) reached the finals a record 18 times: from 1954 to 1970 and in 1972. He won the world title in 1957, 1958, 1964 and 1966, and scored a record 201 points from 87 races.

The World Pairs Championships have been held unofficially since 1968 and officially since 1970. Renamed the World Team Championships in 1994, they have been won a record nine times by Denmark: in 1979, 1985–91 and 1995.

Horse Sports

MOST SUCCESSFUL RACEHORSES
The racehorse with the best win-loss record was Kincsem, a Hungarian mare foaled in 1874. It was unbeaten in 54 races throughout Europe from 1876 to 1879.

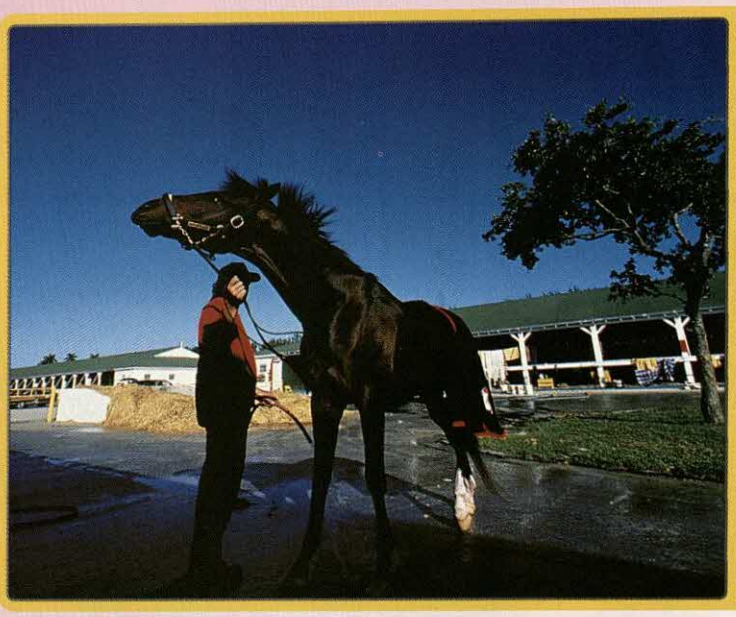
Camarero, foaled in 1951, was unbeaten in 56 races in Puerto Rico from 19 April 1953 to his first defeat on 17 Aug 1955.

Chorisbar, foaled in 1935, won 197 of its 324 races in Puerto Rico between 1937 and 1947.

Lenoxbar, foaled in 1935, won 46 races from 56 starts in one year, in Puerto Rico in 1940.

Doctor Syntax, foaled in 1811, holds the record for the most wins in one race, having won the Preston Gold Cup seven times (1815–1821).

MOST CONSECUTIVE LOSSES
On 6 Sept 1999 Zippy Chippy, a nine-year-old gelding owned and trained by Felix Monserrate (USA), recorded his 86th consecutive loss when he came in third in a field of six at a county fair in Northampton, Massachusetts, USA.



⊙ HIGHEST-EARNING RACEHORSES
The career earnings record for a racehorse is $10 million (£6.7 million). [illegible] US champion Cigar (left, foaled in 1990) from 1993 to 1996. This includes a single-year record of $4.9 million (£3.2 million) in 1996. The [illegible] earning filly or mare is Ho[illegible] Vega (foaled in 19[illegible]) who had winnings of $[illegible] million (£5.6 million) [illegible] Japan between 1993 [illegible] 1997.

MOST SUCCESSFUL TRAINERS
Jack Van Berg (USA) has had the greatest number of wins in one year, with 496 in 1976.

The career record is 8,100 wins, by Dale Baird (USA) between 1962 and May 2000.

The most money won in a year is $17.8 million (£11.9 million), by Darrell Lukas (USA) in 1988.

He also holds the career record, with $177 million (£118 million) won to date.

MOST SUCCESSFUL JOCKEYS
Bill Shoemaker (USA) rode a total of 8,833 winners from 40,350 mounts between March 1949 and his retirement in Feb 1990. His racing weight was 44 kg (97 lb) and he is 1.50 m (4 ft 11 in) tall.

The most race[illegible] won by a jockey in one year is $[illegible]8 from 2,312 mounts, by Ke[illegible] Desormeaux (USA) in 1989.

Christopher M[illegible]arron (USA) had record ca[illegible] earnings of $236 million ([illegible]9.4 million) between 1974 [illegible] April 2000.

The most mon[illegible] won by a jockey in one y[illegible] is $28.4 million (£19.2 million) [illegible] Yutaka Take (Japan) in Jap[illegible] 1993.

MOST SUCCE[illegible]UL OWNERS
The most lifet[illegible] wins by an owner is 4,775, by Marion Van Berg (USA) ove[illegible]5 years in North America.

The most wins in a year is 494, by Dan Lasater (USA) in 1974.

The most money won in one year is $9.09 million (£6.08 million), by Allen Paulson (USA) in North America and Dubai in 1996.

FASTEST RACEHORSES
The highest race speed recorded by a racehorse is 69.62 km/h (43.26 mph) – 402 m (440 yd) in 20.8 seconds – by Big Racket in

⊙ BIGGEST PRIZE FOR ONE RACE
The 2000 Dubai World Cup, held at Nad Al Sheba, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 25 March 2000, had a total prize fund of $6 million (£3.76 million), with the winner receiving $3.6 million (£2.25 million). The race was won by Godolphin stable's Dubai Millennium, ridden by Frankie Dettori. His time was 2 minutes, giving him a record winning rate of $30,000 (£18,808) per second.

Mexico City, Mexico, on 5 Feb 1945; and by Onion Roll in Thistledown, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, on 27 Sept 1993.

The highest speed over a 2,414-m (1.5-mile) course is 60.86 km/h (37.82 mph), by three-year-old Hawkster at Santa Anita Park, Arcadia, California, USA, on 14 Oct 1989. Carrying 54.9 kg (121 lb), its time was 2 min 22.8 sec.

MOST RUNNERS IN A RACE
A record 66 horses took part in the Grand National at Aintree, Merseyside, UK, on 22 March 1929.

MOST SHOWJUMPING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
The most men's World Championship titles is two, by Hans Günter Winkler of West Germany (1954 and 1955); and Raimondo d'Inzeo of Italy (1956 and 1960).

The greatest number of women's titles is also two, by Jane 'Janou' Tissot (France) on Rocket in 1973 and 1974. The women's competition was only held between 1965 and 1974.

The most wins in the team competition, which was inaugurated in 1978, is three, by France (1982, 1986 and 1990).

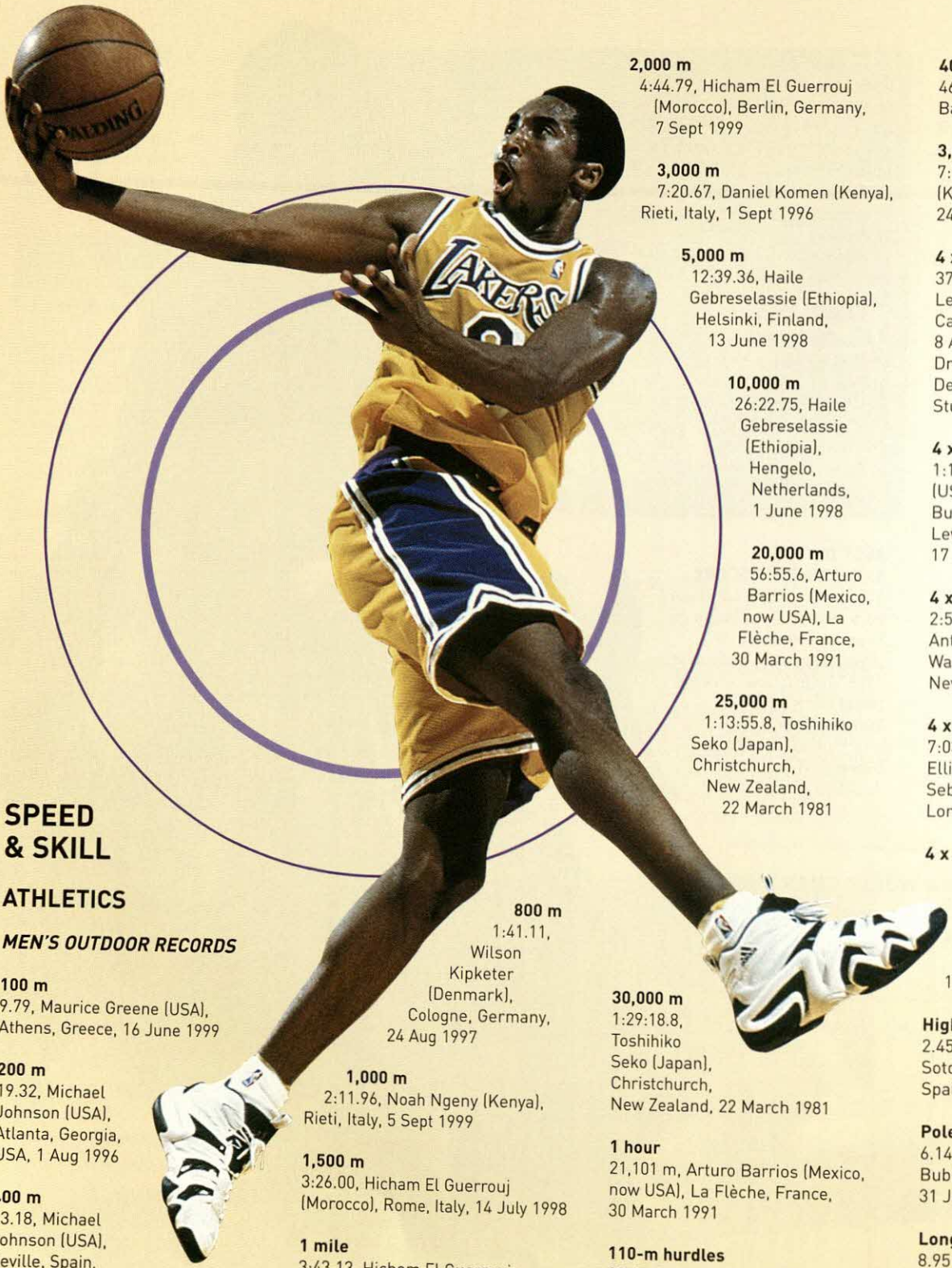
MOST OLYMPIC SHOWJUMPING MEDALS
The most Olympic gold medals won is five, by Hans Günter Winkler (West Germany): four team medals in 1956, 1960, 1964 and 1972, and the individual Grand Prix in 1956. He also won a team silver in 1976 and a team bronze in 1968, giving him a record overall total of seven Olympic medals.

The most team wins is seven, by Germany (as West Germany in 1972 and 1988) in 1936, 1956, 1960, 1964 and 1996.

BEST OLYMPIC SHOWJUMPING SCORE
The lowest score obtained by a winner is no faults by: Frantisek Ventura (Czechoslovakia) on Eliot in 1928; Alwin Schockemöhle (West Germany) on Warwick Rex in 1976; and Ludger Beerbaum (Germany) on Classic Touch in 1992.

→ MOST SHOWJUMPING WORLD CUPS
The most wins in the World Cup is three, by Hugo Simon (Austria) on Gladstone in 1979, and on ET FRH in 1996 and 1997.

Sports Reference



SPEED & SKILL

ATHLETICS

MEN'S OUTDOOR RECORDS

100 m
9.79, Maurice Greene (USA), Athens, Greece, 16 June 1999

200 m
19.32, Michael Johnson (USA), Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 1 Aug 1996

400 m
43.18, Michael Johnson (USA), Seville, Spain, 26 Aug 1999

800 m
1:41.11, Wilson Kipketer (Denmark), Cologne, Germany, 24 Aug 1997

1,000 m
2:11.96, Noah Ngeny (Kenya), Rieti, Italy, 5 Sept 1999

1,500 m
3:26.00, Hicham El Guerrouj (Morocco), Rome, Italy, 14 July 1998

1 mile
3:43.13, Hicham El Guerrouj (Morocco), Rome, Italy, 7 July 1999

2,000 m
4:44.79, Hicham El Guerrouj (Morocco), Berlin, Germany, 7 Sept 1999

3,000 m
7:20.67, Daniel Komen (Kenya), Rieti, Italy, 1 Sept 1996

5,000 m
12:39.36, Haile Gebreselassie (Ethiopia), Helsinki, Finland, 13 June 1998

10,000 m
26:22.75, Haile Gebreselassie (Ethiopia), Hengelo, Netherlands, 1 June 1998

20,000 m
56:55.6, Arturo Barrios (Mexico, now USA), La Flèche, France, 30 March 1991

25,000 m
1:13:55.8, Toshihiko Seko (Japan), Christchurch, New Zealand, 22 March 1981

30,000 m
1:29:18.8, Toshihiko Seko (Japan), Christchurch, New Zealand, 22 March 1981

1 hour
21,101 m, Arturo Barrios (Mexico, now USA), La Flèche, France, 30 March 1991

110-m hurdles
12.91, Colin Jackson (GB), Stuttgart, Germany, 20 Aug 1993

400-m hurdles
46.78, Kevin Young (USA), Barcelona, Spain, 6 Aug 1992

3,000-m steeplechase
7:55.72, Bernard Barmasai (Kenya), Cologne, Germany, 24 Aug 1997

4 x 100-m relay
37.40, USA (Michael Marsh, Leroy Burrell, Dennis A Mitchell, Carl Lewis), Barcelona, Spain, 8 Aug 1992; USA (John A Drummond, Andre Cason, Dennis A Mitchell, Leroy Burrell), Stuttgart, Germany, 21 Aug 1993

4 x 200-m relay
1:18.68, Santa Monica Track Club (USA) (Michael Marsh, Leroy Burrell, Floyd Wayne Heard, Carl Lewis), Walnut, California, USA, 17 April 1994

4 x 400-m relay
2:54.20, USA (Jerome Young, Antonio Pettigrew, Tyree Washington, Michael Johnson), New York, USA, 7 July 1998

4 x 800-m relay
7:03.89, Great Britain (Peter Elliott, Garry Cook, Steve Cram, Sebastian Coe), Crystal Palace, London, UK, 28 Aug 1982

4 x 1,500-m relay
14:38.8, West Germany (Thomas Wessinghage, Harald Hudak, Michael Lederer, Karl Fleschen), Cologne, Germany, 17 Aug 1977

High Jump
2.45 m (8 ft 0.5 in), Javier Sotomayor (Cuba), Salamanca, Spain, 27 July 1993

Pole Vault
6.14 m (20 ft 1 in), Sergey Bubka (Ukraine), Setriere, Italy, 31 July 1994

Long Jump
8.95 m (29 ft 4.5 in), Mike Powell (USA), Tokyo, Japan, 30 Aug 1991

Triple Jump
18.29 m (60 ft 0.25 in), Jonathan Edwards (GB), Gothenburg, Sweden, 7 Aug 1995

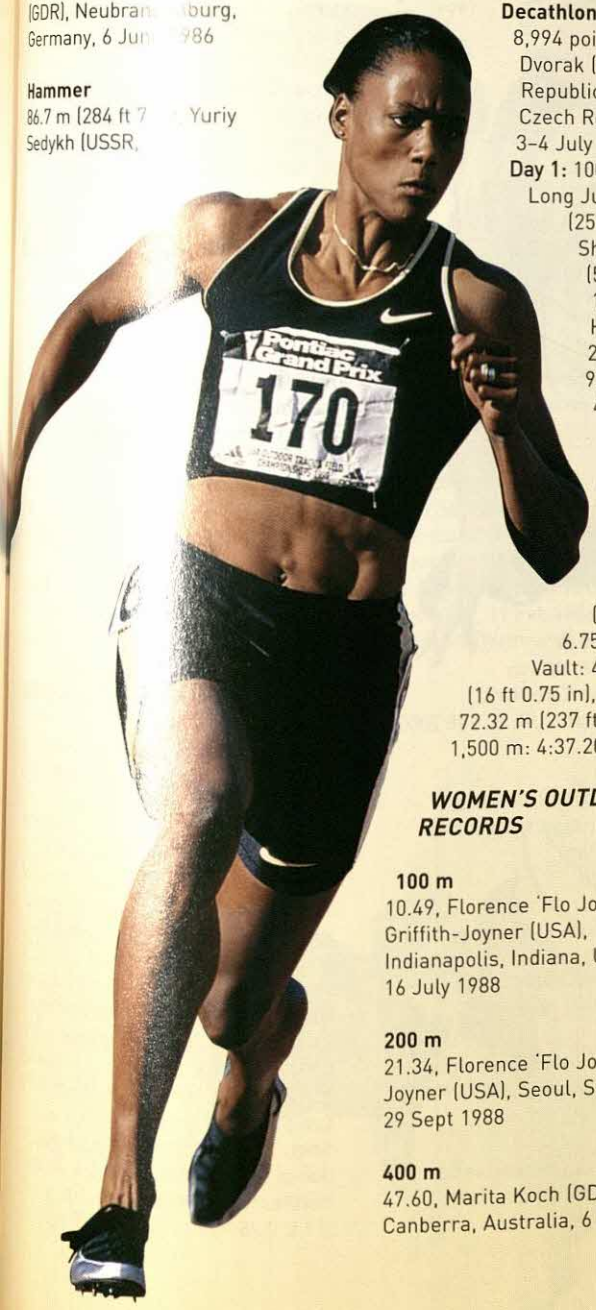
Shot
23.12 m (75 ft 1[illegible] in), Randy Barnes (USA), Los Angeles, California, USA, [illegible] May 1990

Discus
74.08 m (243 ft [illegible]) Jürgen Schult (GDR), Neubrandenburg, Germany, 6 June 1986

Hammer
86.7 m (284 ft 7[illegible]) Yuriy Sedykh (USSR, now Russia), Stuttgart, Germany, 30 Aug 1986

Javelin
98.48 m (323 ft 1 in), Jan Zelezny (Czech Republic), Jena, Germany, 25 May 1996

Decathlon
8,994 points, Tomas Dvorak (Czech Republic), Prague, Czech Republic, 3–4 July 1999
Day 1: 100 m: 10.54; Long Jump: 7.9 m (25 ft 11 in); Shot: 16.76 m (54 ft 11.75 in); High Jump: 2.04 m (6 ft 9.5 in); 400 m: 48.08
Day 2: 110-m hurdles: 13.73; Discus: 48.33 m (158 ft 6.75 in); Pole Vault: 4.90 m (16 ft 0.75 in), Javelin: 72.32 m (237 ft 3 in); 1,500 m: 4:37.20



WOMEN'S OUTDOOR RECORDS

100 m
10.49, Florence 'Flo Jo' Griffith-Joyner (USA), Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, 16 July 1988

200 m
21.34, Florence 'Flo Jo' Griffith-Joyner (USA), Seoul, South Korea, 29 Sept 1988

400 m
47.60, Marita Koch (GDR), Canberra, Australia, 6 Oct 1985

800 m
1:53.28, Jarmila Kratochvílová (Czechoslovakia), Munich, Germany, 26 July 1983

1,000 m
2:28.98, Svetlana Masterkova (Russia), Brussels, Belgium, 23 Aug 1996

1,500 m
3:50.46, Qu Yunxia (China), Beijing, China, 11 Sept 1993

1 mile
4:12.56, Svetlana Masterkova (Russia), Zürich, Switzerland, 14 Aug 1996

2,000 m
5:25.36, Sonia O'Sullivan (Ireland), Edinburgh, UK, 8 July 1994

3,000 m
8:06.11, Wang Junxia (China), Beijing, China, 13 Sept 1993

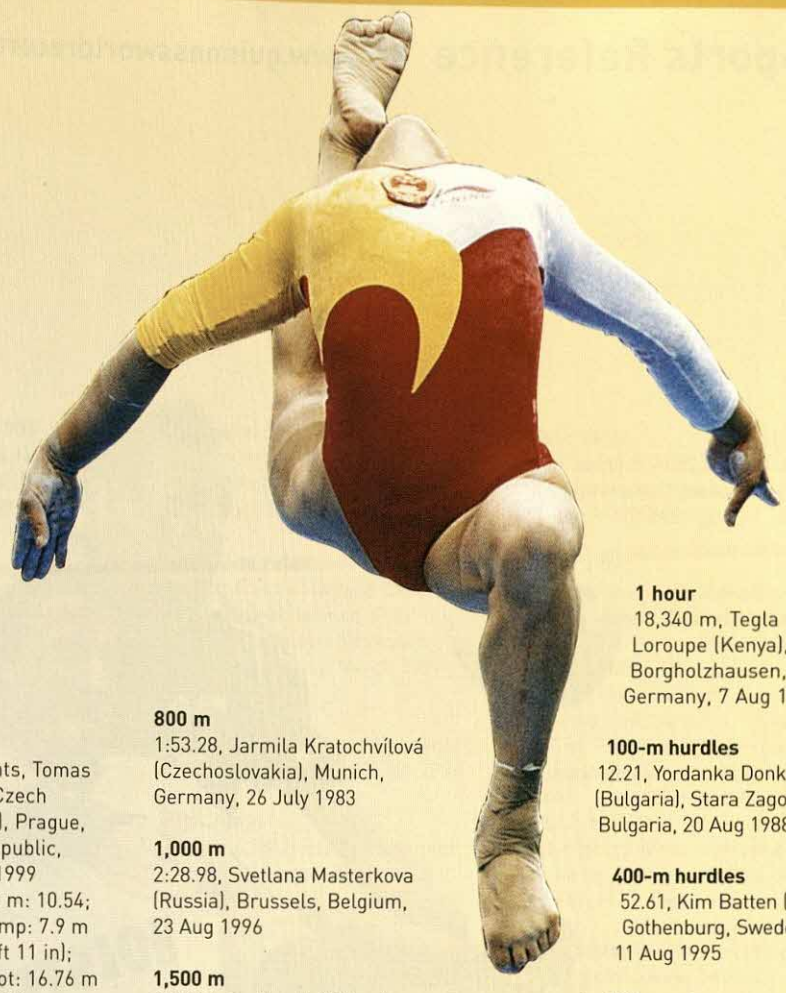
5,000 m
14:28.09, Jiang Bo (China), Beijing, China, 23 Oct 1997

10,000 m
29:31.78, Wang Junxia (China), Beijing, China, 8 Sept 1993

20,000 m
1:06:48.8, Isumi Maki (Japan), Amagasaki, Japan, 20 Sept 1993

25,000 m
1:29:29.2, Karolina Szabó (Hungary), Budapest, Hungary, 23 April 1988

30,000 m
1:47:05.6, Karolina Szabó (Hungary), Budapest, Hungary, 23 April 1988



1 hour
18,340 m, Tegla Loroupe (Kenya), Borgholzhausen, Germany, 7 Aug 1998

100-m hurdles
12.21, Yordanka Donkova (Bulgaria), Stara Zagora, Bulgaria, 20 Aug 1988

400-m hurdles
52.61, Kim Batten (USA), Gothenburg, Sweden, 11 Aug 1995

4 x 100-m relay
41.37, GDR (Silke Gladisch, Sabine Rieger, Ingrid Auerswald, Marlies Gohr), Canberra, Australia, 6 Oct 1985

4 x 200-m relay
1:28.15, GDR (Marlies Göhr, Romy Muller, Bärbel Wöckel, Marita Koch), Jena, Germany, 9 Aug 1980

4 x 400-m relay
3:15.17, USSR (Tatyana Ledovskaya, Olga Nazarova, Maria Pinigina, Olga Bryzgina), Seoul, South Korea, 1 Oct 1988

4 x 800-m relay
7:50.17, USSR (Nadezhda Olizarenko, Lyubov Gurina, Lyudmila Borisova, Irina Podyalovskaya), Moscow, Russia, 5 Aug 1984

High Jump
2.09 m (6 ft 10.25 in), Stefka Kostadinova (Bulgaria), Rome, Italy, 30 Aug 1987

Pole Vault
4.62 m (15 ft 2 in), Stacey Draglia (USA), Phoenix, Arizona, USA, 28 May 2000

Long Jump
7.52 m (24 ft 8 in), Galina Chistyakova (USSR), Leningrad, USSR, 11 June 1988

Triple Jump
15.5 m (50 ft 10.25 in), Inessa Kravets (Ukraine), Gothenburg, Sweden, 10 Aug 1995

Shot
22.63 m (74 ft 3 in), Natalya Lisovskaya (USSR), Moscow, Russia, 7 June 1987

Discus
76.80 m (252 ft), Gabriele Reinsch (GDR), Neubrandenburg, Germany, 9 July 1988

Javelin
67.09 m (220 ft 1 in), Mirela Manjani-Tzelili (Greece), Seville, Spain, 28 Aug 1999

Hammer
76.07 m (249 ft 6 in), Mihaela Melinte (Romania), Rudlingen, Germany, 29 Aug 1999

3,000-m steeplechase
9:48.88, Yelena Motalova (Russia), Tula, Russia, 31 July 1999

Heptathlon
7,291 points, Jackie Joyner-Kersee (USA), Seoul, South Korea, 23–24 Sept 1988
100-m hurdles: 12.69; High Jump: 1.86 m (6 ft 1.25 in); Shot: 15.8 m (51 ft 10 in); 200 m: 22.56; Long Jump: 7.27 m (23 ft 10.25 in); Javelin: 45.66 m (149 ft 10 in); 800 m: 2:08.51

MEN'S INDOOR RECORDS

50 m
5.56, Donovan Bailey (Canada), Reno, Nevada, USA, 9 Feb 1996; Maurice Greene (USA), Los Angeles, California, USA, 13 Feb 1999

60 m
6.39, Maurice Greene (USA), Madrid, Spain, 3 Feb 1998

200 m
19.92, Frank Fredericks (Namibia), Liévin, France, 18 Feb 1996

400 m
44.63, Michael Johnson (USA), Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 4 March 1995

800 m
1:42.67, Wilson Kipketer (Denmark), Paris, France, 9 March 1997

1,000 m
2:14.96, Wilson Kipketer (Denmark), Birmingham, UK, 20 Feb 2000

1,500 m
3:31.18, Hicham El Guerrouj (Morocco), Stuttgart, Germany, 2 Feb 1997

1 mile
3:48.45, Hicham El Guerrouj (Morocco), Ghent, Belgium, 12 Feb 1997

3,000 m
7:24.90, Daniel Komen (Kenya), Budapest, Hungary, 6 Feb 1998

5,000 m
12:50.38, Haile Gebreselassie (Ethiopia), Birmingham, UK, 14 Feb 1999

50-m hurdles
6.25, Mark McKoy (Canada), Kobe, Japan, 5 March 1986

60-m hurdles
7.30, Colin Jackson (GB), Sindelfingen, Germany, 6 March 1998

4 x 200-m relay
1:22.11, Great Britain (Linford Christie, Darren Braithwaite, Ade Mafe, John Regis), Glasgow, UK, 3 March 1991

4 x 400-m relay
3:02.83, USA (Andre Morris, Dameon Johnson, Deon Minor, Milton Campbell), Maebashi, Japan, 7 March 1999

5,000-m walk
18:07.08, Mikhail Shchennikov (Russia), Moscow, Russia, 14 Feb 1995

High Jump
2.43 m (7 ft 11.5 in), Javier Sotomayor (Cuba), Budapest, Hungary, 4 March 1989

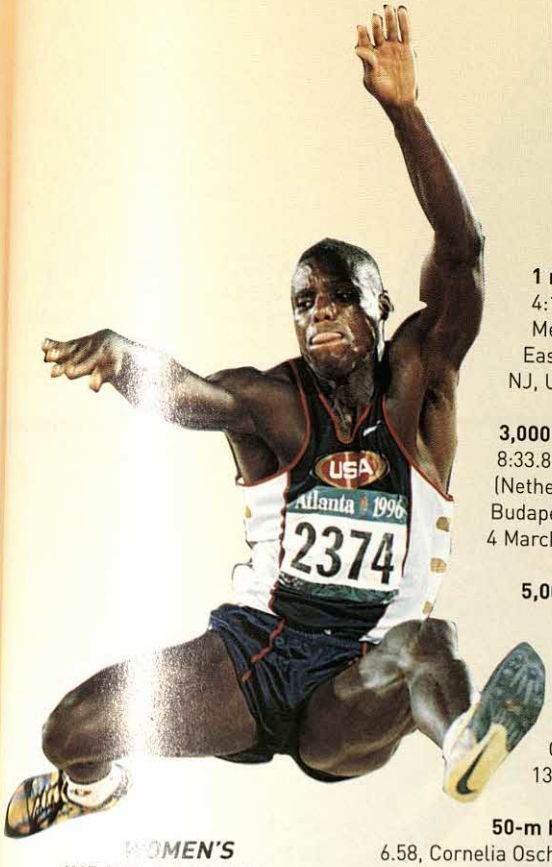
Pole Vault
6.15 m (20 ft 2 in), Sergey Bubka (Ukraine), Donetsk, Ukraine, 21 Feb 1993

Long Jump
8.79 m (28 ft 10 in), Carl Lewis (USA), New York, USA, 27 Jan 1984

Triple Jump
17.83 m (58 ft 6 in), Alliacer Urrutia (Cuba), Sindelfingen, Germany, 1 March 1997

Shot
22.66 m (74 ft 4 in), Randy Barnes (USA), Los Angeles, California, USA, 20 Jan 1989

Heptathlon
6,476 points, Dan Dion O'Brien (USA), Toronto, Canada, 13–14 March 1993. 60 m: 6.67; Long Jump: 7.84 m (25 ft 8.5 in); Shot: 16.02 m (52 ft 6.5 in); High Jump: 2.13 m (6 ft 11.75 in); 60-m hurdles: 7.85; Pole Vault: 5.20 m (17 ft 0.75 in); 1,000 m: 2:57.96



WOMEN'S INDOOR RECORDS

50 m
5.96, Irina Pri[illegible]ova (Russia), Madrid, Spain [illegible] Feb 1995

60 m
6.92, Irina Pri[illegible]ova (Russia), Madrid, Spain [illegible] Feb 1993 and 9 Feb 1995

200 m
21.87, Merlen[illegible]ttey (Jamaica), Liévin, France [illegible] Feb 1993

400 m
49.59, Jarmila [illegible]atochvílová (Czechoslovakia), Milan, Italy, 7 March 1982

800 m
1:56.40, Christine Wachtel (GDR), Vienna, Austria, 13 Feb 1988

1,000 m
2:30.94, Maria Mutola (Mozambique), Stockholm, Sweden, 25 Feb 1999

1,500 m
4:00.27, Doina Melinte (Romania), East Rutherford, NJ, USA, 9 Feb 1990

1 mile
4:17.14, Doina Melinte (Romania), East Rutherford, NJ, USA, 9 Feb 1990

3,000 m
8:33.82, Elly van Hulst (Netherlands), Budapest, Hungary, 4 March 1989

5,000 m
14:47.36, Gabriela Szabo (Romania), Dortmund, Germany, 13 Feb 1999

50-m hurdles
6.58, Cornelia Oschkenat (GDR), Berlin, Germany, 20 Feb 1988

60-m hurdles
7.69, Lyudmila Narozhilenko (Russia), Chelyabinsk, Russia, 4 Feb 1993

4 x 200-m relay
1:32.55, SC Eintracht Hamm (West Germany) (Helga Arendt, Silke-Beate Knoll, Mechthild Kluth, Gisela Kinzel), Dortmund, Germany, 19 Feb 1988; LG Olympia Dortmund (Germany) (Esther Moller, Gabi Rockmeier, Birgit Rockmeier, Andrea Phillip), Karlsruhe, Germany, 21 Feb 1999

4 x 400-m relay
3:24.25, Russia (Tatyana Chebykina, Svetlana Goncharenko, Olga Kotlyarova, Natalya Nazarova), Maebashi, Japan, 7 March 1999

3,000-m walk
11:40.33, Claudia Iovan (Romania), Bucharest, Romania, 30 Jan 1999

High Jump
2.07 m (6 ft 9.5 in), Heike Henkel (Germany), Karlsruhe, Germany, 9 Feb 1992

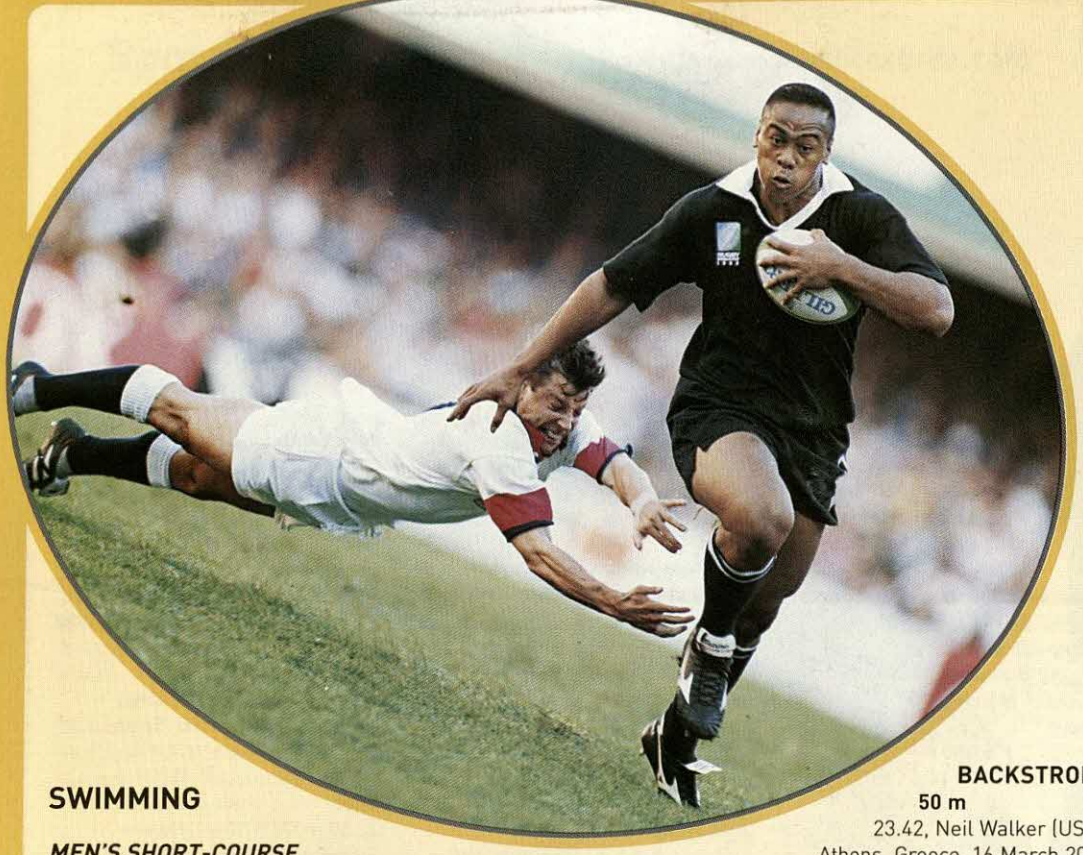
Pole Vault
4.62 m (15 ft 2 in), Stacey Dragila (USA), Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 3 March 2000

Long Jump
7.37 m (24 ft 2 in), Heike Drechsler (GDR), Vienna, Austria, 13 Feb 1988

Triple Jump
15.16 m (49 ft 8.75 in), Ashia Hansen (GB), Valencia, Spain, 28 Feb 1998

Shot
22.50 m (73 ft 10 in), Helena Fibingerová (Czechoslovakia), Jablonec, Czechoslovakia, 19 Feb 1977

Pentathlon
4,991 points, Irina Belova (Russia), Berlin, Germany, 14–15 Feb 1992
60-m hurdles: 8.22; High Jump: 1.93 m (6 ft 4 in); Shot: 13.25 m (43 ft 5.5 in); Long Jump: 6.67 m (21 ft 10.5 in); 800 m: 2:10.26



SWIMMING

MEN'S SHORT-COURSE RECORDS

FREESTYLE

50 m
21.21, Anthony Ervin (USA), Minneapolis, USA, 23 March 2000

100 m
46.74, Aleksandr Popov (Russia), Gelsenkirchen, Germany, 19 March 1994

200 m
1:41.10, Ian Thorpe (Australia), Berlin, Germany, 5 Feb 2000

400 m
3:35.01, Grant Hackett (Australia), Hong Kong, China, 2 April 1999

800 m
7:34.90, Kieren Perkins (Australia), Sydney, Australia, 25 July 1993

1,500 m
14:19.55, Grant Hackett (Australia), Sydney, Australia, 27 Sept 1998

4 x 50-m relay
1:26.99, Netherlands (Mark Veens, Johan Kenkhuis, Atefan Aartsen, Pieter van de Hoogenband), Sheffield, S Yorks, UK, 12 Dec 1998

4 x 100-m relay
3:09.57, Sweden (Johan Nystrom, Lars Frolander, Mattias Ohlin, Stefan Nystrand), Athens, Greece, 16 March 2000

4 x 200-m relay
7:01.33, USA (Josh Davis, Neil Walker, Scott Tucker, Chad Carvin), Athens, Greece, 17 March 2000

BACKSTROKE

50 m
23.42, Neil Walker (USA), Athens, Greece, 16 March 2000

100 m
50.75, Neil Walker (USA), Athens, Greece, 19 March 2000

200 m
1:52.43, Lenny Krayzelburg (USA), Berlin, Germany, 6 Feb 2000

BREASTSTROKE

50 m
26.70, Mark Warnecke (Germany), Sheffield, S Yorks, UK, 11 Dec 1998

100 m
57.66, Ed Moses (USA), Minneapolis, USA, 24 March 2000

200 m
2:06.40, Ed Moses, Minneapolis, USA, 25 March 2000

BUTTERFLY

50 m
23.19, Lars Frolander (Sweden), Athens, Greece, 19 March 2000

100 m
50.44, Lars Frolander (Sweden), Athens, Greece, 17 March 2000

200 m
1:51.76, James Hickman (GB), Paris, France, [illegible] March 1998

MEDLEY

100 m
52.79, Neil Walker (USA), Athens, Greece, 18 March 2000

200 m
1:54.65, Jani Sievinen (Finland), Kuopio, Finland, 21 Jan 1994; Atilla Czene (Hungary), Minneapolis, USA, 23 March 2000

400 m
4:04.24, Matthew Dunn (Australia), Perth, Australia, 24 Sept 1998

4 x 50-m relay
1:35.51, Germany (Thomas Rupprath, Mark Warnecke, Alexander Ludwig, Stephan Kunzelmann); Sweden (Daniel Carlsson, Patrik Isaksson, Jonas Akesson, Lars Frolander), Sheffield, S Yorks, UK, 13 Dec 1998

4 x 100-m relay
3:28.88, Australia (Matt Welsh, Phil Rogers, Michael Klim, Chris Fydler), Hong Kong, China, 4 April 1999

WOMEN'S SHORT-COURSE RECORDS

FREESTYLE

50 m
23.59, Therese Alshammar (Sweden), Athens, Greece, 18 March 2000

100 m
52.17, Therese Alshammar (Sweden),

Athens, Greece, 17 March 2000

200 m
1:54.17, Claudia Poll (Costa Rica), Gothenburg, Sweden, 18 April 1997

400 m
4:00.03, Claudia Poll (Costa Rica), Gothenburg, Sweden, 19 April 1997

800 m
8:15.34, Astrid Strauss (GDR), Bonn, Germany, 6 Feb 1987

1,500 m
15:43.31, Petra Schneider (GDR), Gainesville, Florida, USA, 10 Jan 1987

4 x 50-m relay
1:38.45, Sweden (Johann Sjoberg, Anna-Karin Kammerling, Therese Alshammar, Malin Svahnström), Lisbon, Portugal, 10 Dec 1999

4 x 100-m relay
3:34.55, China (Lu Jingyi, Na Chao, Shan Ying, Nie Yin), Gothenburg, Sweden, 19 April 1997

4 x 200-m relay
7:49.11, Great Britain (Claire Huddart, Nicola Jackson, Karen Legg, Karen Pickering), Athens, Greece, 16 March 2000

BACKSTROKE

50 m
27.27, Sandra Voelker (Germany), Sheffield, S Yorks, UK, 13 Dec 1998

100 m
58.50, Angel Martino (USA), Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 3 Dec 1993

200 m
2:06.09, He Cihong (China), Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 5 Dec 1993

BREASTSTROKE

50 m
30.77, Han Xue (China), Gelsenkirchen, Germany, 2 Feb 1997

100 m
1:05.57, Penny Heyns (South Africa), Johannesburg, South Africa, 5 Sept 1999

200 m
2:20.22, Masami Tanaka (Japan), Hong Kong, China, 2 April 1999

BUTTERFLY

50 m
26.00, Jenny Thompson (USA), College Park, Maryland, USA, 18 Nov 1999

100 m
56.56, Jenny Thompson (USA), Athens, Greece, 18 March 2000

200 m
2:04.16, Susan O'Neill (Australia), Sydney, Australia, 18 Jan 2000

MEDLEY

100 m
59.30, Jenny Thompson (USA), Hong Kong, China, 2 April 1999

200 m
2:07.79, Allison Wagner (USA), Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 5 Dec 1993

400 m
4:29.00, Dai Gouhong (China), Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 2 Dec 1993

4 x 50-m relay
1:49.47, Sweden (Johann Sjoberg, Anna-Karin Kammerling, Therese Alshammar, Emma Igelstrom), Lisbon, Portugal, 12 Dec 1999

4 x 100 m relay
3:57.46, University of Georgia, USA (Courtney Shealy, Kristy Kowal, Keegan Walkley, Maritza Correia), Minneapolis, USA, 16 March 2000

MEN'S LONG-COURSE RECORDS

FREESTYLE

50 m
21.64, Aleksandr Popov (Russia), Moscow, Russia, 16 June 2000

100 m
48.21, Aleksandr Popov (Russia), Monte Carlo, Monaco, 18 June 1994

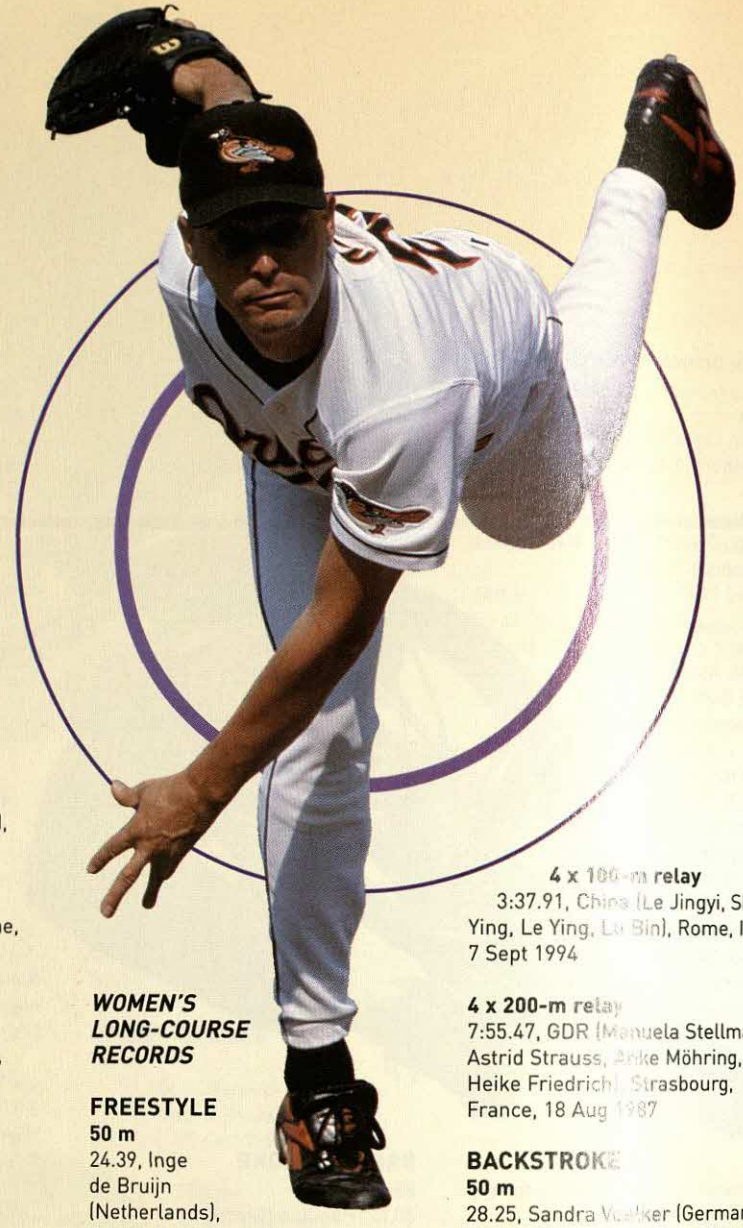
200 m
1:45.51, Ian Thorpe (Australia), Sydney, Australia, 15 May 2000

400 m
3:41.33, Ian Thorpe (Australia), Sydney, Australia, 13 May 2000

800 m
7:46.00, Kieren Perkins (Australia), Victoria, Canada, 24 Aug 1994

1,500 m
14:41.66, Kieren Perkins (Australia), Victoria, Canada, 24 Aug 1994

4 x 100-m relay
3:15.11 USA (David Fox, Joe Hudepohl, Jon Olsen, Gary Hall), Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 12 Aug 1995



4 x 200-m relay
7:08.79, Australia (Ian Thorpe, William Kirby, Grant Hackett, Michael Klim), Sydney, Australia, 25 Aug 1999

BACKSTROKE
50 m
24.99, Lenny Krayzelburg (USA), Sydney, Australia, 28 Aug 1999

100 m
53.60, Lenny Krayzelburg (USA), Sydney, Australia, 24 Aug 1999

200 m
1:55.87, Lenny Krayzelburg (USA), Sydney, Australia, 27 Aug 1999

BREASTSTROKE
50 m
27.61, Alexander Dzhaburiya (Ukraine), Kharkov, Ukraine, 27 April 1996

100 m
1:00.36, Roman Sloudnov (Russia), Moscow, Russia, 15 June 2000

200 m
2:10.16, Mike Barrowman (USA), Barcelona, Spain, 29 July 1992

BUTTERFLY
50 m
23.60, Geoffrey Huegill (Australia), Sydney, Australia, 14 May 2000

100 m
51.81, Michael Klim (Australia), Canberra, Australia, 12 Dec 1999

200 m
1:55.18, Tom Malchow (USA), Charlotte, North Carolina, USA, 18 June 2000

MEDLEY
200 m
1:58.16, Jani Sievinen (Finland), Rome, Italy, 11 Sept 1994

400 m
4:12.30, Tom Dolan (USA), Rome, Italy, 6 Sept 1994

4 x 100-m relay
3:34.84, USA (Jeff Rouse, Jeremy Linn, Mark Henderson, Gary Hall Jr), Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 26 July 1996

WOMEN'S LONG-COURSE RECORDS

FREESTYLE
50 m
24.39, Inge de Bruijn (Netherlands), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 11 June 2000

100 m
53.80, Inge de Bruijn (Netherlands), Sheffield, S Yorks, UK, 28 May 2000

200 m
1:56.78, Franziska van Almsick (Germany), Rome, Italy, 6 Sept 1994

400 m
4:03.85, Janet Evans (USA), Seoul, South Korea, 22 Sept 1988

800 m
8:16.22, Janet Evans (USA), Tokyo, Japan, 20 Aug 1989

1,500 m
15:52.10, Janet Evans (USA), Orlando, Florida, USA, 26 March 1988

4 x 100-m relay
3:37.91, China (Le Jingyi, Shan Ying, Le Ying, Lu Bin), Rome, Italy, 7 Sept 1994

4 x 200-m relay
7:55.47, GDR (Manuela Stellmach, Astrid Strauss, Anke Möhring, Heike Friedrich), Strasbourg, France, 18 Aug 1987

BACKSTROKE
50 m
28.25, Sandra Voelker (Germany), Berlin, Germany, 17 June 2000

100 m
1:00.16, He Cihong (China), Rome, Italy, 10 Sept 1994

200 m
2:06.62, Krisztina Egerszegi (Hungary), Athens, Greece, 25 Aug 1991

BREASTSTROKE
50 m
30.83, Penny Heyns (South Africa), Sydney, Australia, 28 Aug 1999

100 m
1:06.52, Penny Heyns (South Africa), Sydney, Australia, 23 Aug 1999

200 m
2:23.64, Penny Heyns (South Africa), Sydney, Australia, 27 Aug 1999

BUTTERFLY

50 m
25.64, Inge de Bruijn (Netherlands), Sheffield, S Yorks, UK, 26 May 2000

100 m
56.69, Inge de Bruijn (Netherlands), Sheffield, S Yorks, UK, 27 May 2000

200 m
2:05.81, Susan O'Neill (Australia), Sydney, Australia, 17 May 2000

MEDLEY

200 m
2:09.72, Wu Yanyan (China), Shanghai, China, 17 Oct 1997

400 m
4:34.79, Chen Yan (China), Shanghai, China, 17 Oct 1997

4 x 100-m relay
4:01.67, China (He Cihong, Dai Guohong, Liu Limin, Le Jingyi), Rome, Italy, 10 Sept 1994

CYCLING

MEN'S WORLD RECORDS

These records are recognized by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI). As of 1 Jan 1993, their list no longer distinguishes between records set by professionals and amateurs, indoor and outdoor records, or records set at altitude and sea level.

UNPACED STANDING START

1 km 1:00.613, Shane Kelly (Australia), Bogotá, Colombia, 26 Sept 1995

4 km 4:11.114, Chris Boardman (GB), Manchester, UK, 29 Aug 1996

4-km team 4:00.958, Italy (Adler Capelli, Cristiano Citton, Andrea Collinelli, Mauro Trentini), Manchester, UK, 31 Aug 1996

1 hour 56.376 km, Chris Boardman (GB), Manchester, UK, 6 Sept 1996

UNPACED FLYING START

200 m 9.865, Curtis Harnett (Canada), Bogotá, Colombia, 28 Sept 1995

500 m 26.649, Aleksandr Kiritchenko (USSR), Moscow, USSR, 29 Oct 1988

WOMEN'S WORLD RECORDS

UNPACED STANDING START

500 m 34.017, Felicia Ballanger (France), Bogotá, Colombia, 29 Sept 1995

3 km 3:30.974, Marion Clignet (France), Manchester, UK, 31 Aug 1996

1 hour 48.159 km, Jeanie Longo-Ciprelli (France), Mexico City, Mexico, 26 Oct 1996

UNPACED FLYING START

200 m 10.831, Olga Slyusareva (Russia), Moscow, Russia, 25 April 1993

500 m 29.655, Erika Salumäe (USSR), Moscow, USSR, 6 Aug 1987

MEN'S OLYMPIC RECORDS

UNPACED STANDING START

1 km 1:02.712, Florian Rousseau (France), Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 24 July 1996

4 km 4:19.699, Andrea Collinelli (Italy), Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 24 July 1996

4-km team 4:05.930, France (Christophe Capelle, Philippe Ermenault, Jean-Michel Monin, Francis Moreau), Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 27 July 1996

UNPACED FLYING START

200 m 10.129, Gary Neiwand (Australia), Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 24 July 1996

WOMEN'S OLYMPIC RECORDS

UNPACED STANDING START

3 km 3:32.371, Antonella Bellutti (Italy), Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 24 July 1996

UNPACED FLYING START

200 m 11.212, Michelle Ferris (Australia), Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 26 July 1996

SPEED-SKATING

MEN'S RECORDS

500 m
34.63, Jeremy Wotherspoon (Canada), Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 18 March 2000

1,000 m
1:08.35, Jeremy Wotherspoon (Canada), Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 18 March 2000

1,500 m
1:45.56, Jakko Jan Leeuwangh (Netherlands), Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 29 Jan 2000

3,000 m
3:43.76, Steven Elm (Canada), Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 17 March 2000

5,000 m
6:18.72, Gianni Romme (Netherlands), Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 30 Jan 2000

10,000 m
13:08.71, Gianni Romme (Netherlands), Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 29 March 1998

WOMEN'S RECORDS

500 m
37.55, Catriona Le May Doan (Canada), Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 29 Dec 1997

1,000 m
1:14.61, Monique Garbrecht (Germany), Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 21 Feb 1999

1,500 m
1:55.50, Annamarie Thomas (Netherlands), Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 20 March 1999

3,000 m
4:00.51, Gunda Niemann-Stirnemann (Germany), Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 30 Jan 2000

5,000 m
6:56.84, Gunda Niemann-Stirnemann (Germany), Hamar, Norway, 16 Jan 2000

HORSE RACING

EPSOM DERBY
(UK, first run 1780)
Fastest time: 2:32.31
Lammtarra, 1995
Most wins (Jockey): 9
Lester Piggott 1954–83
Most wins (Trainer): 7
Robert Robson 1793–1823
John Porter 1868–99
Fred Darling 1924–41
Most wins (Owner): 5
3rd Earl of Egremont 1782–1826
HH Aga Khan III 1930–52

PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE
(France, first run 1920)
Fastest time: 2:26.6
Peintre Célèbre 1997
Most wins (Jockey): 4
Jacques Doyasbere 1942–51
Frédéric Head 1966–79
Yves Saint Martin 1970–84
Pat Eddery 1988–97
Most wins (Trainer): 4
Charles Semblat 1942–49
Alec Head 1952–81
François Mathet 1950–82
Most wins (Owner): 6
Marcel Boussac 1936–49

VRC MELBOURNE CUP
(Australia, first run 1861)
Fastest time: 3:16.3
Kingston Rule, 1990
Most wins (Jockey): 4
Bobby Lewis 1902–27
Harry White 1974–79
Most wins (Trainer): 11
Bart Cummings 1965–99
Most wins (Owner): 4
Etienne de Mestre 1861–78

KENTUCKY DERBY
(USA, first run 1875)
Fastest time: 1:59.4
Secretariat, 1973
Most wins (Jockey): 5
Eddie Arcaro 1938–52
Bill Hartack 1957–69
Most wins (Trainer): 6
Ben Jones 1938–52
Most wins (Owner): 8
Calumet Farm
1941–68

GRAND NATIONAL
(UK, first run 1839)
Fastest time: 8:47.8
Mr Frisk, 1990
Most wins (Jockey): 5
George Stevens 1856–70
Most wins (Trainer): 4
Fred Rimell 1956–76
Most wins (Owner): 3
James Machell 1873–76
Sir Charles Assheton-Smith 1893–1913
Noel Le Mare 1973–77

JAPAN CUP
(Japan, first run 1981)
Fastest time: 2:22.2
Horlicks, 1989
Most wins (Jockey): 2
Yukio Okabe 1985–92

BALL SPORTS

BASEBALL

AL – American League
NL – National League

WORLD SERIES

Most series played in: 14, Yogi Berra (New York, AL), 1947–63
Most series played in by a pitcher: 11, Whitey Ford (New York, AL), 1950–64
Most home runs in a game: 3
Babe Ruth (New York, AL), 6 Oct 1926 and 9 Oct 1928
Reggie Jackson (New York, AL), 18 Oct 1977
Runs batted in in a game: 6
Bobby Richardson (New York, AL), 8 Oct 1960
Strikeouts in a game: 17, Robert Gibson (St Louis, NL), 2 Oct 1968
Perfect game (9 innings):
Don Larsen (New York, AL) v Brooklyn, 8 Oct 1956

US MAJOR LEAGUE BATTING RECORDS

AVERAGE

Career: .367, Ty Cobb (Detroit, AL; Philadelphia, AL), 1905–28
Season: .438, Hugh Duffy (Boston, NL), 1894

RUNS SCORED

Career: 2,245, Ty Cobb, 1905–28
Season: 196, Billy Hamilton (Philadelphia, NL), 1894

HOME RUNS

Career: 755, Hank Aaron (Milwaukee, NL; Atlanta, NL; Milwaukee, AL), 1954–76
Season: 70, Mark McGwire (St Louis, NL), 1998

RUNS BATTED IN

Career: 2,297, Hank Aaron, 1954–76
Season: 191, Hack Wilson (Chicago, NL), 1930
Game: 12
Jim Bottomley (St Louis, NL), 16 Sept 1924
Mark Whiten (St Louis, NL), 7 Sept 1993

BASE HITS

Career: 4,256, Pete Rose (Cincinnati, NL; Philadelphia, NL; Montreal, NL; Cincinnati, NL), 1963–86
Season: 257, George Sisler (St Louis, AL), 1920
Consecutive hits: 12
Pinky Higgins (Boston, AL), 19–21 June 1938
Moose Dropo (Detroit, AL), 14–15 July 1952
Consecutive games batted in safely: 56, Joe DiMaggio (New York, AL), 15 May–16 July 1941

TOTAL BASES

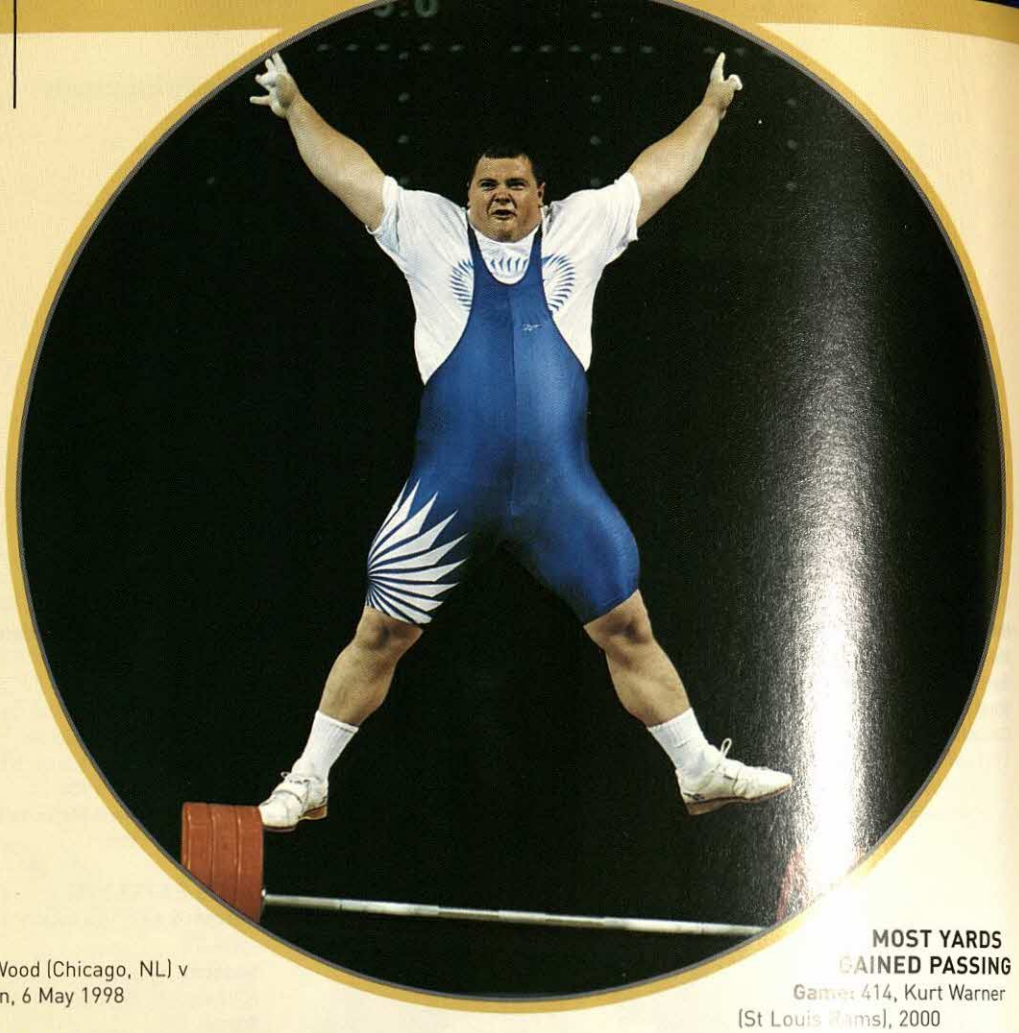
Career: 6,856, Hank Aaron, 1954–76
Season: 457, Babe Ruth, 1921

STOLEN BASES

Career: 1,344, Rickey Henderson (Oakland, AL; New York, AL; Oakland, AL; Toronto, AL; Oakland, AL; San Diego, NL; Anaheim, AL; Oakland, AL; New York, AL; Seattle, AL), 1979–2000
Season: 130, Rickey Henderson (Oakland, AL), 1982

CONSECUTIVE GAMES PLAYED

2,632, Cal Ripken Jr (Baltimore, AL), 30 May 1982–19 Sept 1998



US MAJOR LEAGUE PITCHING RECORDS

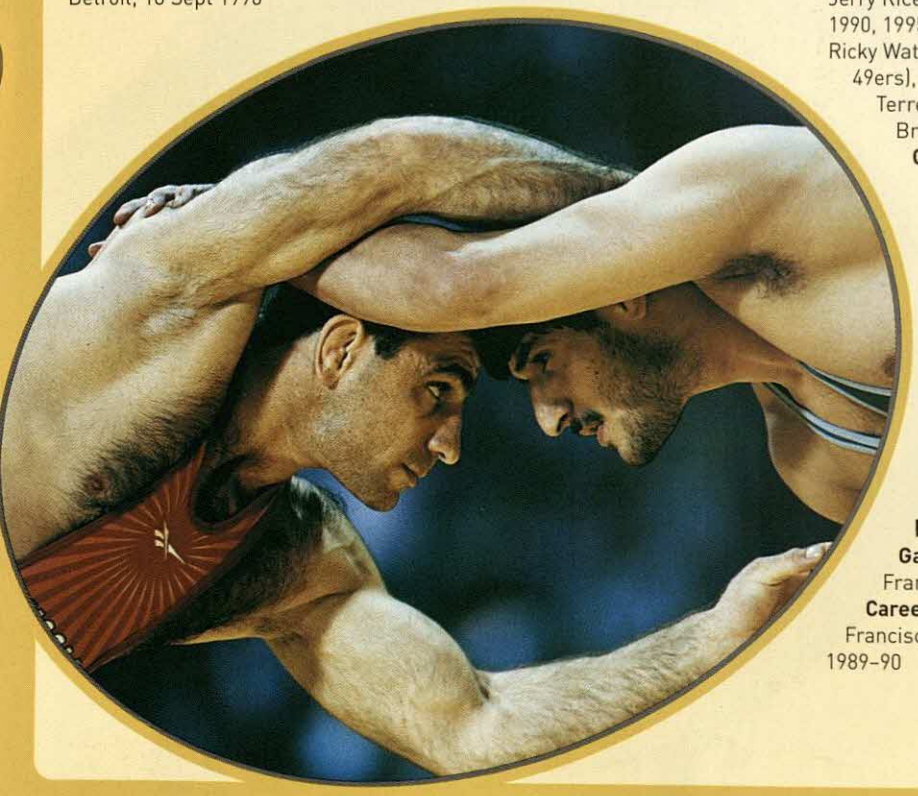
GAMES WON
Career: 511, Cy Young (Cleveland, NL; St Louis, NL; Boston, AL; Cleveland, AL; Boston, NL), 1890–1911
Season: 60, Hoss Radbourn (Providence, NL), 1884
Consecutive games won: 24, Carl Hubbell (New York, NL), 1936–37

SHUTOUTS
Career: 110, Walter Johnson (Washington, AL), 1907–27
Season: 16
George Bradley (St Louis, NL), 1876
Grover Alexander (Philadelphia, NL), 1916

STRIKEOUTS
Career: 5,714, Nolan Ryan (New York, NL; California, AL; Houston, NL; Texas, AL), 1966–93
Season: 383, Nolan Ryan (California, AL), 1973
(513, Matthew Kilroy (Baltimore, AA), 1886)
Game (9 innings): 20
Roger Clemens (Boston, AL) v Seattle, 29 April 1986; and v Detroit, 18 Sept 1996
Kerry Wood (Chicago, NL) v Houston, 6 May 1998

NO-HIT GAMES
Career: 7, Nolan Ryan, 1973–91

EARNED RUN AVERAGE
Season: 0.90, Ferdinand Schupp (140 inns) (New York, NL), 1916; 0.96, Dutch Leonard (222 inns) (Boston, AL), 1914; 1.12, Robert Gibson (305 inns) (St Louis, NL), 1968



AMERICAN FOOTBALL

SUPER BOWL GAME AND CAREER RECORDS

MOST POINTS
Game: 18
Roger Craig (San Francisco 49ers), 1985
Jerry Rice (San Francisco 49ers), 1990, 1995
Ricky Watters (San Francisco 49ers), 1995
Terrell Davis (Denver Broncos), 1998
Career: 42, Jerry Rice, 1989–90, 1995

MOST TOUCHDOWNS
Game: 3
Roger Craig, 1985
Jerry Rice, 1990, 1995
Ricky Watters, 1995
Terrell Davis, 1998
Career: 7, Jerry Rice, 1989–90, 1995

MOST TOUCHDOWN PASSES
Game: 6, Steve Young (San Francisco 49ers), 1995
Career: 11, Joe Montana (San Francisco 49ers), 1982, 1985, 1989–90

MOST YARDS GAINED PASSING
Game: 414, Kurt Warner (St Louis Rams), 2000
Career: 1,142, Joe Montana, 1982, 1985, 1989–90

MOST YARDS GAINED RUSHING
Game: 204, Timmy Smith (Washington Redskins), 1988
Career: 354, Franco Harris (Pittsburgh Steelers), 1975–76, 1979–80

MOST YARDS GAINED RECEIVING
Game: 215, Jerry Rice, 1989
Career: 512, Jerry Rice, 1989–90, 1995

MOST PASSES COMPLETED
Game: 31, Jim Kelly (Buffalo Bills), 1994
Career: 83, Joe Montana, 1982, 1985, 1989–90

PASS RECEPTIONS
Game: 11
Dan Ross (Cincinnati Bengals), 1982
Jerry Rice, 1989
Career: 28, Jerry Rice, 1989–90, 1995

FIELD GOALS
Game: 4
Don Chandler (Green Bay Packers), 1968
Ray Wersching (San Francisco 49ers), 1982

Career: 5, Ray Wersching, 1982, 1985

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Joe Montana, 1982, 1985, 1990

NFL RECORDS

MOST POINTS
Career: 2,002, George Blanda (Chicago Bears, Baltimore Colts, Houston Oilers, Oakland Raiders), 1949–75
Season: 176, Paul Hornung (Green Bay Packers), 1960
Game: 40, Ernie Nevers (Chicago Cardinals) v Chicago Bears, 28 Nov 1929

MOST TOUCHDOWNS
Career: 180, Jerry Rice (San Francisco 49ers), 1985–99
Season: 25, Emmitt Smith (Dallas Cowboys), 1995
Game: 6
Ernie Nevers (Chicago Cardinals) v Chicago Bears, 28 Nov 1929
William Jones (Cleveland Browns) v Chicago Bears, 25 Nov 1951
Gale Sayers (Chicago Bears) v San Francisco 49ers, 12 Dec 1965

MOST YARDS GAINED RUSHING
Career: 16,726, Walter Payton (Chicago Bears), 1975–87
Season: 2,105, Eric Dickerson (Los Angeles Rams), 1984
Game: 275, Walter Payton (Chicago Bears) v Minnesota Vikings, 20 Nov 1977

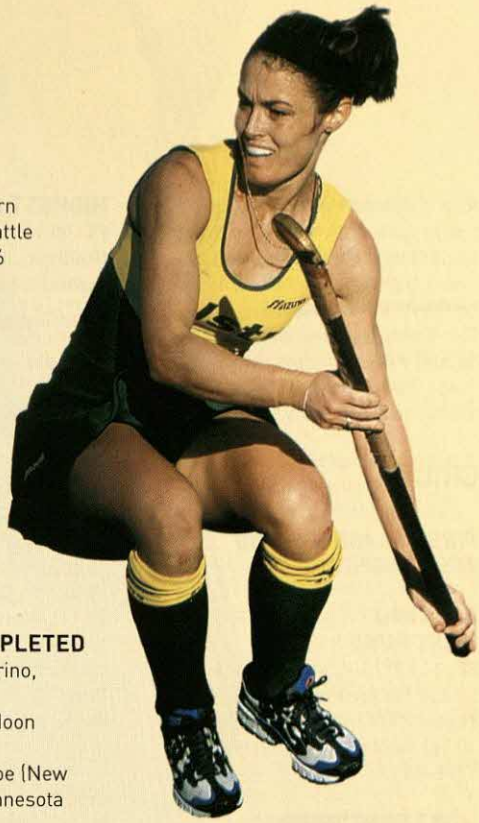
MOST YARDS GAINED RECEIVING
Career: 18,883, Jerry Rice, 1985–99
Season: 1,848, Jerry Rice, 1995
Game: 336, Willie Anderson (Los Angeles Rams) v New Orleans Saints, 26 Nov 1989

MOST COMBINED NET YARDS GAINED
Career: 21,803, Walter Payton (Chicago Bears), 1975–87
Season: 2,535, Lionel James (San Diego Chargers), 1985
Game: 404, Glyn Milburn (Denver Broncos) v Seattle Seahawks, 10 Dec 1996

MOST YARDS GAINED PASSING
Career: 61,631, Dan Marino (Miami Dolphins), 1983–99
Season: 5,084, Dan Marino, 1984
Game: 554, Norm Van Brocklin (Los Angeles Rams) v New York Yanks, 28 Sept 1951

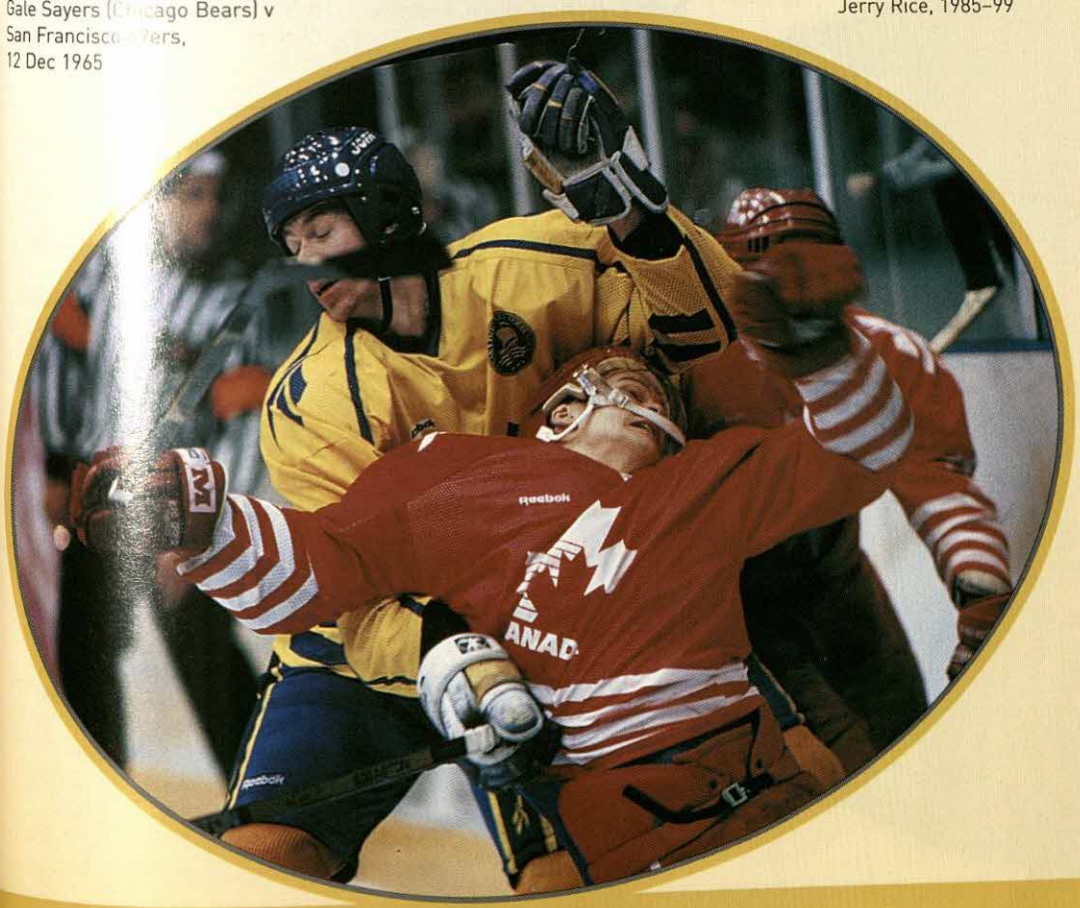
MOST PASSES COMPLETED
Career: 4,967, Dan Marino, 1983–99
Season: 404, Warren Moon (Houston Oilers), 1991
Game: 45, Drew Bledsoe (New England Patriots) v Minnesota Vikings, 13 Nov 1994

PASS RECEPTIONS
Career: 1,206, Jerry Rice, 1985–99
Season: 123, Herman Moore, (Detroit Lions), 1995
Game: 18, Tom Fears (Los Angeles Rams) v Green Bay Packers, 3 Dec 1950



MOST TOUCHDOWN PASSES
Career: 420, Dan Marino, 1983–99
Season: 48, Dan Marino, 1984
Game: 7
Sid Luckman (Chicago Bears) v New York Giants, 14 Nov 1943
Adrian Burk (Philadelphia Eagles) v Washington Redskins, 17 Oct 1954
George Blanda (Houston Oilers) v New York Titans, 19 Nov 1961
YA Tittle (New York Giants) v Washington Redskins, 28 Oct 1962
Joe Kapp (Minnesota Vikings) v Baltimore Colts, 28 Sept 1969

FIELD GOALS
Career: 439, Gary Anderson (Pittsburgh Steelers, 1982–94; Philadelphia Eagles, 1995–96; San Francisco 49ers, 1997; Minnesota Vikings, 1999)
Season: 39, Olindo Mare (Miami Dolphins), 1999
Game: 7
Jim Bakken (St Louis Cardinals) v Pittsburgh Steelers, 24 Sept 1967



Rich Karlis (Minnesota Vikings) v Los Angeles Rams, 5 Nov 1989
Chris Boniol (Dallas Cowboys) v Green Bay Packers, 18 Nov 1996
Longest: 63 yd (57.6 m)
Tom Dempsey (New Orleans Saints) v Detroit Lions, 8 Nov 1970
Jason Elam (Denver Broncos) v Jacksonville Jaguars, 25 Oct 1998

CRICKET

FIRST-CLASS (FC) AND TEST CAREER

BATTING
MOST RUNS
FC: 61,237, Sir Jack Hobbs (av 50.65), Surrey/England, 1905–34
Test: 11,174, Allan Border (av 50.56), Australia (156 Tests), 1978–94

MOST CENTURIES
FC: 197, Sir Jack Hobbs (in 1,315 innings), Surrey/England, 1905–34
Test: 34, Sunil Gavaskar (in 214 innings), India, 1971–87

HIGHEST AVERAGE
FC: 95.14, Sir Don Bradman, NSW/South Australia/Australia, 1927–49 (28,067 runs in 338 innings, including 43 not outs)
Test: 99.94, Sir Don Bradman (6,996 runs in 80 innings), Australia (52 Tests), 1928–48

BOWLING
MOST WICKETS
FC: 4,187, Wilf Rhodes (av 16.71), Yorkshire/England, 1898–1930
Test: 439, Courtney Walsh (av 25.11), West Indies, 1984–2000

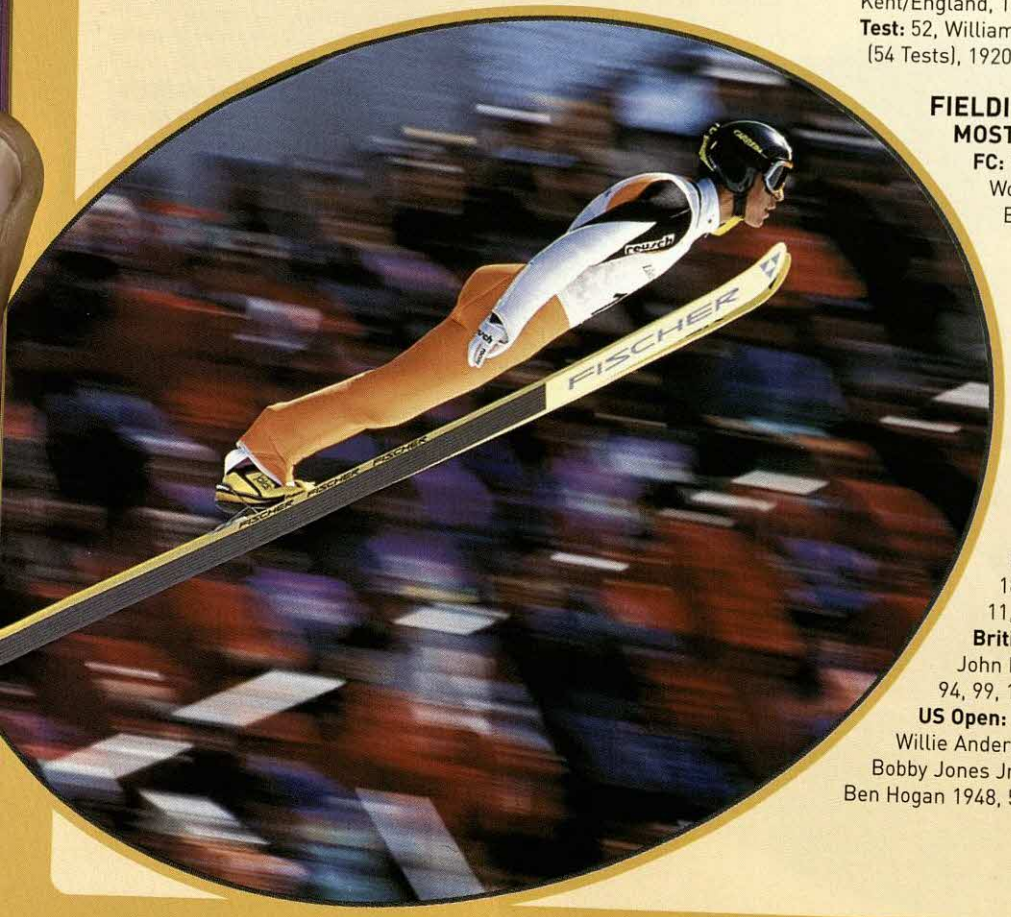
LOWEST AVERAGE
Test: 10.75, George Lohmann (112 wkts), England (18 Tests), 1886–96 (min 25 wkts)

WICKET-KEEPING
MOST DISMISSALS
FC: 1,649, Bob Taylor, Derbyshire/England, 1960–88
Test: 381, Ian Healy, Australia (111 Tests), 1988–99

MOST CATCHES
FC: 1,473, Bob Taylor, Derbyshire/England, 1960–88
Test: 353, Ian Healy, Australia (111 Tests), 1988–99

MOST STUMPINGS
FC: 418, Leslie Ames, Kent/England, 1926–51
Test: 52, William Oldfield, Australia (54 Tests), 1920–37

FIELDING
MOST CATCHES
FC: 1,018, Frank Woolley, Kent/England, 1906–38
Test: 157, Mark Taylor, Australia (104 Tests), 1989–99



GOLF

MOST MAJOR GOLF TITLES
British Open: 6
Harry Vardon 1896, 98, 99, 1903, 11, 14
British Amateur: 8
John Ball 1888, 90, 92, 94, 99, 1907, 10, 12
US Open: 4
Willie Anderson 1901, 03–05
Bobby Jones Jr 1923, 26, 29, 30
Ben Hogan 1948, 50, 51, 53
Jack Nicklaus 1962, 67, 72, 80
US Amateur: 5
Bobby Jones Jr 1924, 25, 27, 28, 30
US PGA: 5
Walter Hagan 1921, 24–27
Jack Nicklaus 1963, 71, 73, 75, 80
US Masters: 6
Jack Nicklaus 1963, 65, 66, 72, 75, 86
US Women's Open: 4
Betsy Earle-Rawls 1951, 53, 57, 60
Mickey Wright 1958, 59, 61, 64
US Women's Amateur: 6
Glenna Vare 1922, 25, 28–30, 35
British Women's Amateur: 4
Charlotte Pitcairn Leitch 1914, 20, 21, 26
Joyce Wethered 1922, 24, 25, 29

Jack Nicklaus is the only golfer to have won five different major titles (the British Open, US Open, US Masters, US PGA and US Amateur titles) twice, and a record 20 all told (1959–86).

In 1930 Bobby Jones achieved a unique 'Grand Slam' of the US and British Open and Amateur titles.

TARGET SPORTS

SHOOTING

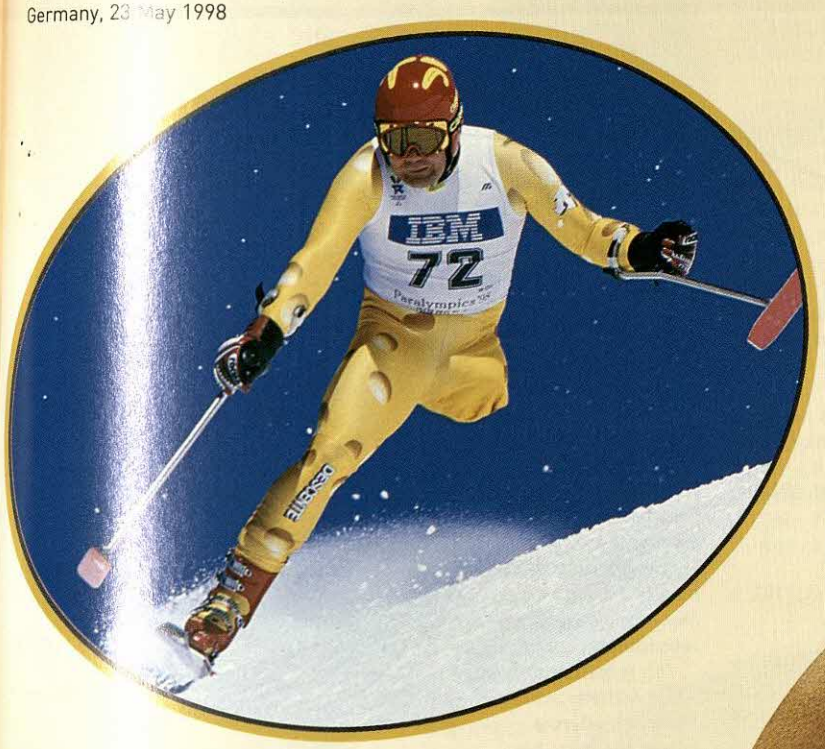
MEN'S RECORDS

Rifle 50 m 3 x 40 shots
1,287.9 (1,186 + 101.9)
Rajmond Debevec (Slovenia), Munich, Germany, 29 Aug 1992

Rifle 50 m 60 shots prone
704.8 (600 + 104.8)

Christian Klees (Germany), Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 25 July 1996

Air rifle 10 m 60 shots
700.6 (598 + 102.6)
Jason Parker (USA), Munich, Germany, 23 May 1998



Pistol 50 m [illegible] shots
676.2 (577 + [illegible]2)
William Der[illegible]est (USA), Milan, Italy, 4 June [illegible]00

Rapid-fire pistol 25 m 60 shots
699.7 (596 + [illegible]3.7)
Ralf Schumann (Germany), Barcelona, Spain, 8 June 1994

Air pistol 10 m 60 shots
695.1 (593 + 102.1)
Sergey Pyzhyanov (USSR), Munich, Germany, 13 Oct 1989

Running target 10 m 30/30 shots
687.9 (586 + 101.9)
Ling Yang (China), Milan, Italy, 6 June 1996

Trap 125 targets
150 (125 + 25)
Marcello Tittarelli (Italy), Suhl, Germany, 11 June 1996

Double trap 150 targets
194 (146 + 48)
Daniele Di Spigno (Italy), Tampere, Finland, 7 July 1999

Skeet 125 targets
150 (125 + 25)
Jan Heinrich (Germany), Lonato, Italy, 5 June 1996
Andrea Benelli (Italy), Suhl, Germany, 11 June 1996
Ennio Falco (Italy), Lonato, Italy, 19 April 1997
Harald Jensen (Norway), Kumamoto City, Japan, 1 June 1999
Franck Durbesson (France), Sydney, Australia, 31 March 2000

WOMEN'S RECORDS

Rifle 50 m 3 x 20 shots
689.7 (592 + 97.7)
Vessela Letcheva (Bulgaria), Munich, Germany, 15 June 1995
689.7 (591 + 98.7)
Wang Xian (China), Milan, Italy, 29 May 1998

Air rifle 10 m 40 shots
503.5 (398 + 105.5)
Gaby Buehlmann (Switzerland), Munich, Germany, 24 May 1998

Pistol 25 m 60 shots
696.2 (594 + 102.2)
Diana Jorgova (Bulgaria), Milan, Italy, 31 May 1994

Air pistol 10 m 40 shots
493.5 (390 + 103.5)
Ren Jie (China), Munich, Germany, 22 May 1998

Trap 100 targets
95 (71 + 24)
Satu Pusila (Finland), Nicosia, Cyprus, 13 June 1998
95 (71 + 24)
Delphine Racinet (France), Sydney, Australia, 26 March 2000

Double trap 120 targets
149 (113 + 36)
Deborah Gelisio (Italy), Nicosia, Cyprus, 19 June 1995
149 (110 + 39)
Xiang Xu (China), Munich, Germany, 3 Sept 1995
149 (111 + 38)
Deborah Gelisio (Italy), Munich, Germany, 3 Sept 1995

Skeet 100 targets
99 (75 + 24)
Svetlana Demina (Russia), Kumamoto City, Japan, 1 June 1999

ARCHERY

MEN (SINGLE FITA ROUNDS)

FITA: 1,368 of 1,440 points
Oh Kyo-moon (South Korea), 1995
90 m: 331 of 360 points
Chang Yong-ho (South Korea), 1999
70 m: 345 of 360 points
Jackson Fear (Australia), 1997
50 m: 351 of 360 points
Kim Kyung-ho (South Korea), 1997
30 m: 360 of 360 points
Han Seuong-hoon (South Korea), 1994
Team: 4,053 of 4,320 points
South Korea (Oh Kyo-moon, Lee Kyung-chul, Kim Jae-pak), 1995

WOMEN (SINGLE FITA ROUNDS)
FITA: 1,380 of 1,440 points
Chung Chang-sook (South Korea), 1999
70 m: 343 of 360 points
Chung Chang-sook (South Korea), 1999
60 m: 350 of 360 points
Kim Jo-soon (South Korea), 1998
50 m: 345 of 360 points
Kim Moon-sun (South Korea), 1996
30 m: 360 of 360 points
Ha Na-young (South Korea), 1998

Team: 4,094 of 4,320 points
South Korea (Kim Soo-nyung, Lee Eun-kyung, Cho Yuon-jeong), 1992

INDOOR (18M)
Men: 596 of 600 points
Magnus Pettersson (Sweden), 1995
Women: 591 of 600 points
Lina Herasymenko (Ukraine), 1996

INDOOR (25M)
Men: 593 of 600 points
Magnus Pettersson (Sweden), 1993
Women: 592 of 600 points
Petra Ericsson (Sweden), 1991

STRENGTH

WEIGHTLIFTING

IWF WORLD RECORDS

MEN'S RECORDS

On 1 Jan 1998 the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) introduced modified bodyweight categories, thereby making all the then-world records redundant.

This is the current list, which features world standards where a record has yet to be set. Results achieved at IWF-approved competitions that exceed the world standards by 0.5 kg for snatch or clean and jerk, or by 2.5 kg for the total, will be recognized as world records.

56 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 137.5 kg
Halil Mutulu (Turkey), Athens, Greece, 22 Nov 1999
Clean & Jerk: 166.5 kg
Halil Mutulu (Turkey), Sofia, Bulgaria, 25 April 2000
Total: 302.5 kg
Halil Mutulu (Turkey), Athens, Greece, 22 Nov 1999

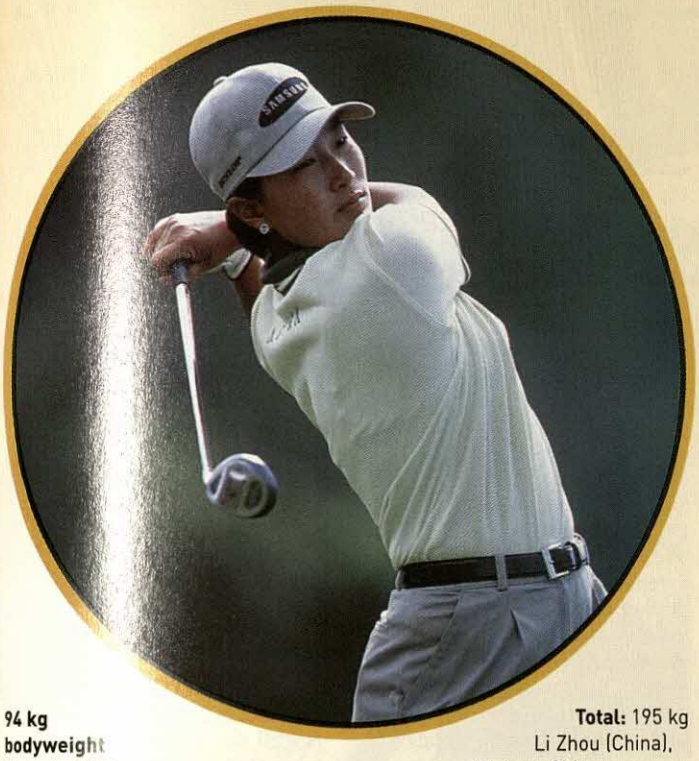
62 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 152.5 kg
Shi Zhiyong (China), Osaka, Japan, 3 May 2000
Clean & Jerk: 180.5 kg
Le Maosheng (China), Athens, Greece, 23 Nov 1999
Total: 325 kg World Standard

69 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 162.5 kg
Galabin Boevski (Bulgaria), Athens, Greece, 24 Nov 1999
Clean & Jerk: 196 kg
Galabin Boevski (Bulgaria), Athens, Greece, 24 Nov 1999

Total: 357.5 kg
Galabin Boevski (Bulgaria), Athens, Greece, 24 Nov 1999

77 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 170.5 kg
Khach Kyapanaktsyan (Armenia), Athens, Greece, 25 Nov 1999
Clean & Jerk: 207.5 kg
Zlatan Vaner (Bulgaria), Sofia, Bulgaria, 28 April 2000
Total: 372.5 kg World Standard

85 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 181 kg
Georgi Asanidze (Georgia), Sofia, Bulgaria, 29 April 2000
Clean & Jerk: 218 kg
Zhang Yong (China), Tel Aviv, Israel, 25 April 1998
Total: 395 kg World Standard



94 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 188 kg
Akakios Kakiashvilis (Greece), Athens, Greece, 27 Nov 1999
Clean & Jerk: 232.5 kg
Szymon Kołecki (Poland), Sofia, Bulgaria, 29 April 2000
Total: 417.5 kg World Standard

105 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 197 kg World Standard
Clean & Jerk: 242.5 kg
World Standard
Total: 440 kg World Standard

+105 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 206 kg
Hossein Rezazadeh (Iran), Athens, Greece, 28 Nov 1999
Clean & Jerk: 262.5 kg
World Standard
Total: 465 kg
Ronny Weller (Germany), Riesa, Germany, 3 May 1998

IWF WORLD RECORDS

WOMEN'S RECORDS

48 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 85 kg
Donka Mincheva (Bulgaria), Sofia, Bulgaria, 25 April 2000
Clean & Jerk: 113.5 kg
Donka Mincheva (Bulgaria), Athens, Greece, 21 Nov 1999
Total: 195 kg
Li Zhou (China), Wuhan, China, 29 Aug 1999

53 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 97.5 kg
Meng Xianjuan (China), Chiba, Japan, 1 May 1999
Clean & Jerk: 121.5 kg
Li Feng-Ying (Taiwan), Athens, Greece, 21 Nov 1999
Total: 217.5 kg
Meng Xianjuan (China), Chiba, Japan, 1 May 1999

58 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 105 kg
Chen Yanqing (China), Athens, Greece, 22 Nov 1999
Clean & Jerk: 131.5 kg
Ri Song-hui (North Korea), Osaka, Japan, 3 May 2000
Total: 235 kg
Chen Yanqing (China), Athens, Greece, 22 Nov 1999

63 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 110 kg
Lei Li (China), Chiba, Japan, 2 May 1999
Clean & Jerk: 132.5 kg
Xiong Meiyin (China), Athens, Greece, 23 Nov 1999
Total: 240 kg
Chen Yui-Lien (Taiwan), Athens, Greece, 23 Nov 1999

69 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 111 kg
Sun Tianni (China), Bangkok, Thailand, 11 Dec 1998
Clean & Jerk: 143 kg
Sun Tianni (China), Athens, Greece, 24 Nov 1999
Total: 255 kg
Lin Weining (China), Wuhan, China, 3 Sept 1999

75 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 116 kg
Tang Weifang (China), Wuhan, China, 4 Sept 1999
Clean & Jerk: 142.5 kg
Sun Tianni (China), Osaka, Japan, 6 May 2000
Total: 252.5 kg
Tang Weifang (China), Wuhan, China, 4 Sept 1999

+75 kg bodyweight
Snatch: 127.5 kg
Agata Wrobel (Poland), Athens, Greece, 27 Nov 1999
Clean & Jerk: 160.5 kg
Ding Meiyuan (China), Osaka, Japan, 6 May 2000
Total: 285 kg
Ding Meiyuan (China), Athens, Greece, 27 Nov 1999

So You Want To Set A Record...?

⊙ A RUBBER BAND RECORD
John Bain of Wilmington, Delaware, USA, is pictured with his record-breaking rubber band ball, which weighs 907.18 kg (2,000 lb). Do you think you could do better?

Guinness World Records 2001 features many people who have accomplished extraordinary feats. Do you think you have what it takes to become one of those people? If you would like to break, or establish, a record, read on.

'I CAN DO THAT!'

You might not be able to run as fast as Michael Johnson, or sell as many records as Madonna, but everyone can set a record, either as an individual or as part of a team. Why not start a collection? It needn't be expensive: our database has records for collections of buttons, bus tickets and bottle caps. Or you could get together with friends and try to break the record for the longest paperclip chain or the biggest group hug. Why not set a brand new record?

Every day brings suggestions for new record categories and we try to find ways of accepting as many of these as possible. What we are looking for in a new category is a challenge that is interesting, requires skill, is safe and, most importantly, is likely to attract challenges from other people.

All record-breakers receive a certificate acknowledging that they have become members of an exclusive body — official Guinness World Record holders. To receive this certificate, you don't just have to break a record — you need to prove that you have broken it.

DOCUMENTATION

Any potential record-breaker must allow his or her attempt to be scrutinized. A requirement for all record challenges is a clearly-labelled VHS video tape (with the official clock in view where appropriate). Good-quality colour photographs or transparencies should also be submitted with the claim. It's a good idea to get your local newspaper or radio or TV station interested in your record challenge and persuade a reporter to be present. Any newspaper cuttings or recordings of the attempt will be useful.

Every record claim must be accompanied by detailed documentation. At least two independent witness statements are needed, and your witnesses should be people of some standing in the community: doctors, lawyers, councillors, police officers or officials of a professional or sporting body, for example. Some records may also require an expert, such as a surveyor or a public health official, to be present. Witnesses must not be related to you. Witnesses should be able to confirm that they have seen the successful progress and completion of the record attempt, and that the guidelines have been followed.

GUIDELINES

For most human endeavour categories, Guinness World Records has specific guidelines to ensure that all contestants are attempting a record under exactly the same conditions. Only in this way will we be able to compare your achievements.

APPLY EARLY

Whatever record category you decide to attempt, it's important to contact us early. If your proposal is accepted as a new category, we may have to draw up new guidelines with the assistance of experts. So please allow both us and you plenty of time for preparation. You should also check with us shortly before the attempt in order to make sure that the record hasn't recently been broken.

GETTING IN TOUCH

To contact Guinness World Records, call 0891 517607 (++ 44 891 517607 if calling from outside the UK). Calls currently cost no more than 50p per minute if dialling from within the UK. You can also e-mail us at: infouk@guinnessworldrecords.com fax us on: 020 7891 4504 (+44 20 7891 4504 if dialling from outside the UK) or write to us at: GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS LTD, 338 EUSTON ROAD, LONDON NW1 3BD, UNITED KINGDOM.

WILL MY RECORD BE IN THE BOOK?

Not all new records appear in the book. With tens of thousands of records on the Guinness World Records database, we only have space to include a small fraction of the current records in any one year. The book you are reading now is a selection of the subjects and categories that we believe will be of the most interest to our readers. Also, some long-standing records are rested to give newer record holders a chance of inclusion. The same principle applies to our website, www.guinnessworldrecords.com and to the *Guinness World Records* TV show.

However, as long as you have an official certificate from Guinness World Records, you are entitled to call yourself a Guinness World Record holder.

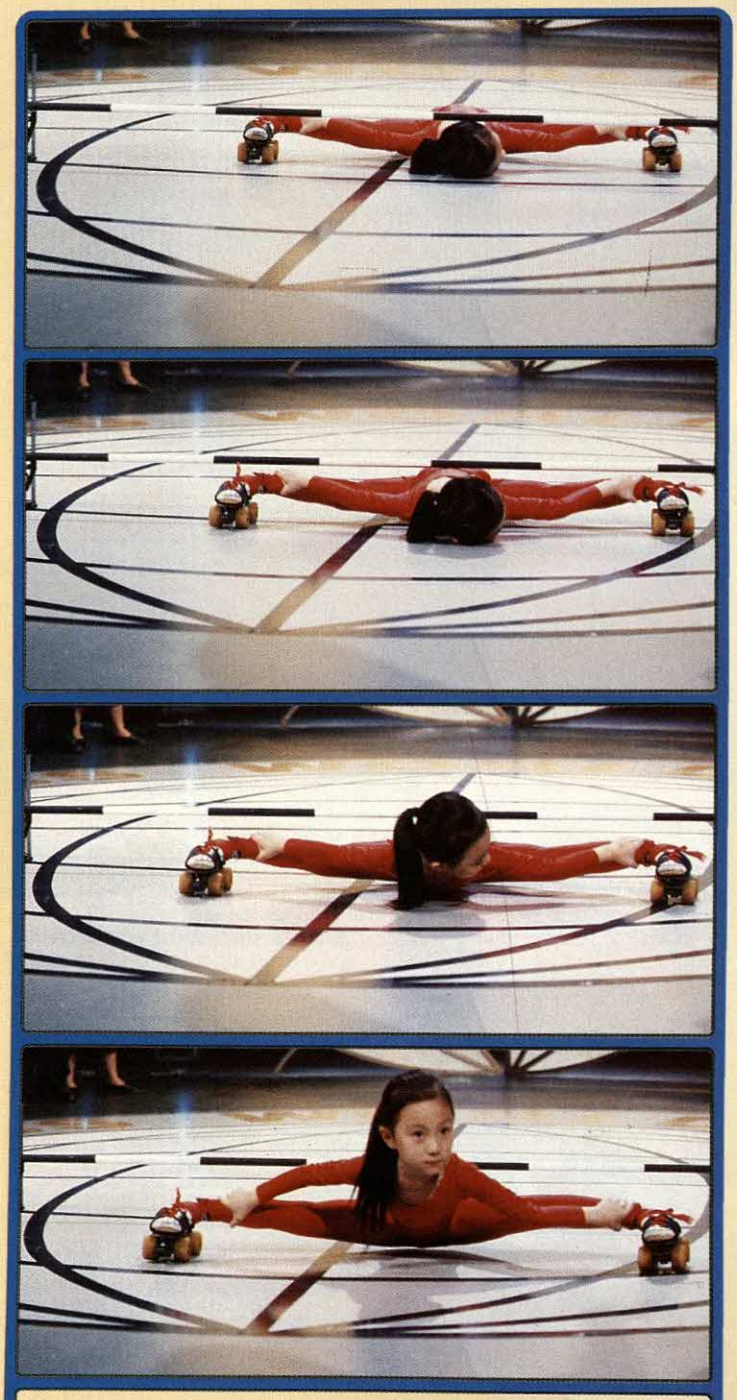
TAKING CARE

Safety precautions are an important factor in record guidelines. All record attempts are undertaken at the sole risk of the competitor. Guinness World Records Ltd cannot be held responsible for any (potential) liability whatsoever arising out of any such attempt, whether to the claimant or any third party.

⊙ EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

These are just a handful of the hundreds of photographs we receive to support record claims. It's a good idea to persuade a local newspaper to cover your attempt, and to send a photographer along.

Guinness World Records on TV



⊙ LOWEST ROLLERSKATE LIMBO SPLITS
Xue Wang (China) performed the splits under a bar set at 14.6 cm (5.75 in) on 23 Sept 1999.

The second series of *Guinness World Records*, presented by Ian Wright and Kate Charman, began on 22 April 2000 on the ITV network. Here are the amazing people featured on the show.

MOST COCKROACHES IN A COFFIN
'Jungle' John Lamedica (USA) was placed in a plexiglass coffin and 20,050 Giant Madagascan Hissing cockroaches were poured over him.

MOST SWORDS SWALLOWED AND TWISTED
Brad Byers (USA) swallowed 10 68.6-cm-long (27-in) swords and rotated them 180° in his oesophagus.

LONGEST SUB-ICE SWIM WITH BREATH HELD
Wim Hof (Netherlands) swam 57.5 m (188 ft 8 in) under ice without breathing apparatus and wearing only swimming trunks, in Kolari, Finland.

FASTEST POTTING (TWO TABLES)
Dave Pearson (UK) cleared two pool tables in 1 min 56.5 sec.

MOST PIERCED MAN
Luis Antonio Aguero (Cuba) sports 230 piercings on his body and head.

STEEPEST TIGHTROPE WALK
Javier Gomez (USA) walked 18.75 m (61 ft 6 in) on a tightrope ranging between 24° and 44°, without a balancing pole.

MOST BOWLS STACKED WHILE ON A UNICYCLE
Nancy Huey (USA) stacked 31 aluminium bowls while on a 2.29-m-high (7-ft 6-in) unicycle.

FASTEST MOTORCYCLE CRASH SURVIVED
Ron Cook (USA) survived a crash at 322 km/h (200 mph) at El Mirage Dry Lake, California, USA, in July 1998.

LOCKED STRAITJACKET
Daniel Smith (USA) entered a locked straitjacket in 2 min 8 sec.

SNAKE SITTING IN A BATH TUB
Jackie Bibby and Rosie Reynolds (both USA) each sat in a bath tub with 75 rattlesnakes.

GLOBE OF DEATH
Robin Tabak, Gaël Lurent, Humberto Fonseca Pinto, Humberto H Fonseca Pinto and Kurtis Kunz motorbiked around a person inside a metal sphere with a diameter of 4.3 m (14 ft 3 in).

LONGEST CARAVAN RAMP JUMP
Ray Baumann (Australia) jumped 48 m (157 ft 6 in) in a Plymouth Valiant car with a standard caravan attached to the back.

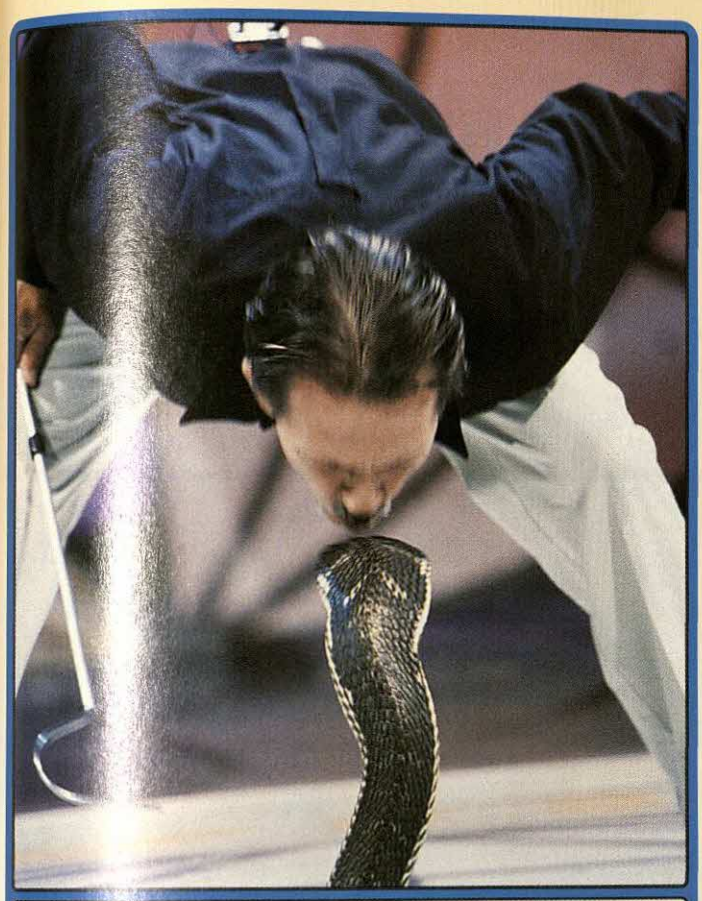
SMALLEST CORSETED WAIST
Cathie Jung (USA) has a waist measuring just 38.1 cm (15 in). She is 1.73 m (5 ft 8 in) tall and has three children.

LONGEST BEARD ON A LIVING FEMALE
Vivian Wheeler (USA) has a beard measuring 20.3 cm (8 in).

MOST DOWNLOADED WOMAN
After model Cindy Margolis (USA) was filmed by a TV crew in 1995, 70,000 people downloaded her image from the Internet in 24 hours. Another TV appearance resulted in her image being downloaded every 10 sec for 48 hours. A 1999 *Internet Life* poll named her the most downloaded woman for the third year running.

SKEET HEAD
A total of 15 clay pigeons, each with a diameter of 10.8 cm (4.25 in), were fired at John Cloherty (USA), who shot them all while walking towards the trap.

BAKED BEANS CHALLENGE
The most baked beans eaten in 2 min by a team of four is 283, by Adam Tucker, Chris Pickering, Dan Partovi and Dave Hatchett of Somerville College, Oxford, UK.



⊙ MOST COBRAS KISSED
Gordon Cates (USA) kissed 10 monocle cobras and a 4.57-m-long (15-ft) king cobra, consecutively, on 25 Sept 1999.

HIGHEST SLACKLINE WALK
Darrin Cartes (USA) walked 30.5 m (100 ft) on a 2.5-cm-wide (1-in) line, 884 m (2,900 ft) above the ground at Lost Arrow Spire, Yosemite National Park, California, USA.

LONGEST FIREWALK
Gary Shawkey (USA) walked 50.29 m (165 ft) over burnt embers with a temperature of 982.22°C (1,800°F).

FASTEST INDOOR FOOTBALL KICK
Hassan Kachloul (Morocco) of Southampton FC kicked a football that reached a speed of 109.43 km/h (68 mph).

HIGHEST MARTIAL ARTS KICK
Paul Ingleton (UK) kicked a target 2.66 m (8 ft 9 in) above the ground.

LOUDEST BURP
Paul Hunn (UK) registered a burp of 118.1 decibels.

MOST BARANIS IN 1 MINUTE
Dominic Swaffer (UK) performed 84 baranis in 1 min, using a standard trampoline.

HULA-HOOP REVOLUTIONS
Ken Kovach (USA) passed completely through a 91.4-cm (36-in) hula hoop 122 times while somersaulting on a trampoline.

MEMORIZING BIRTH DATES
Michaela Buchvaldova (Germany) memorized, then recalled, 13 randomly selected birth dates in 2 min.

BASKETBALL SPINNING
Michael Kettman (USA) simultaneously span 28 regulation basketballs on a specially designed frame for 5 sec.

LONGEST QUAD BIKE JUMP
Matt Coulter (Australia) jumped 40.9 m (134 ft 2 in) over 15 vehicles. He also jumped over four moving vehicles.

BOW AND ARROW FEET
Hang Thu Thi Ngyuen (Vietnam) used her feet to fire an arrow at a target 5 m (16 ft 5 in) away.

BED OF NAILS AND CONCRETE BLOCK CHOP
Paul Evans (UK) had 26 concrete blocks, weighing a total of 129.72 kg (286 lb), piled on his chest while he lay on a bed of nails. The blocks were then smashed with a sledgehammer.

HUMAN CALCULATOR
Scott Flansburg (USA) added a randomly selected two-digit number (38) to itself 36 times in 15 sec without a calculator.

MEMORIZING RANDOM OBJECTS
Dominic O'Brien (UK) memorized and then recalled 51 random items in the order they were read to him.

COCKROACH EATING
Ken Edwards (UK) ate 24 cockroaches in 1 min.

BUCKING BRONCO DURATION
Rob Rutter (UK) remained on a mechanical bull through three levels of difficulty for 49.44 sec.

CREAM CRACKER EATING
Victoria Kent (UK) ate three cream crackers in 2 min 6 sec.

HUMAN SPEED BUMP
Tom Owen (USA) was run over by seven trucks in a row with a combined weight of approximately 5,440 kg (12,000 lb).

MOST PIERCED WOMAN
Elaine Davidson (UK) has 462 piercings over her entire body.

MOST PEOPLE CRAMMED IN A MINI
A total of 17 members of the Reading Ladies' Rugby Team (UK) were crammed into a Mini Cooper.

MOST PEGS ON FACE
Kevin Thackwell (UK) put 104 wooden clothes pegs on his face.

⊙ HIGHEST SHALLOW DIVE
Danny Higginbottom (USA) dived from a height of 8.86 m (29 ft 1 in) into 30.5 cm (12 in) of water on 1 April 2000. He dedicated his dive to his late father.

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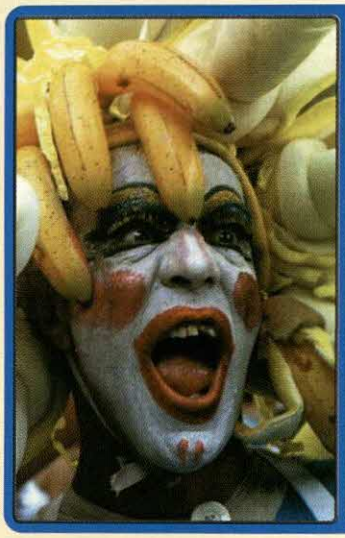

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Records on the site range from the conventional to the bizarre – pictured here is the world's fastest furniture. You'll be able get hot tips from record holders, find out what it's like to break a record or, if you prefer, just chat.

Stop Press!

Records are being broken all the time, and our meticulous verification process means that we cannot always include all the latest details in the main body of the book. Here are some of the records that had just been confirmed as we went to press. For more details see guinnessworldrecords.com and *Guinness World Records 2002*.

FASTEST PUMPKIN CARVER
On 16 Oct 1999 Jerry Ayers (USA) carved 1 tonne (2,015 lb) of pumpkins in 7 hr 11 min at Klickman Farms Inc, Elmore, Ohio.

MOST SIBLING PENSIONERS
Of the 10 children (five brothers, five sisters) born into the Feerick family in Ireland between 1910 and 1921, seven were aged between 70 and 90 on 15 May 2000.

BOWLING MARATHON
Thomas Becker (USA) rolled 221 games when bowling for a record 30 hr 48 min in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, on 11–12 Feb 2000. The record attempt raised money for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) research.

100-M BREASTSTROKE
Roman Sloudnov (Russia) set a new world record when he swam the 100-m breaststroke in 1 min 0.36 sec in Moscow, Russia, on 15 June 2000.

MOST STAIRS CLIMBED ON A BICYCLE
Javier Zapata (Colombia) broke his own world record on 20 May 2000 by hopping up 943 steps on a bike, without touching the ground. It took him 43 min 26 sec.

SMALLEST CRYSTAL BOWL
A crystal bowl made by Jim Irish of Rathculliheen, Waterford, Ireland, a former master cutter at Waterford Crystal, was 8.55 mm (0.34 in) wide, 4.6 mm (0.18 in) high and 2.1 mm (0.08 in) thick. It was made with 208 cuts.

FASTEST GOAL IN A SOCCER CUP FINAL
Based on video evidence, the fastest scorer in a cup final is Owen Price, who scored 4.7 seconds after the whistle for Ernest Bevin School against Barking Abbey in the final of the Under-14 Heinz Ketchup Cup at Highbury, London, UK, on 18 May 2000.

OLDEST PERSON TO COMPLETE A MARATHON ON EACH CONTINENT
Walter William Galbrecht (USA), known as 'Bill', has completed two or more marathons on each of the seven continents. His latest marathons on each of the continents were run when he was 69, in 1997, and when he was 71, in 1999. Bill has run 56 marathons in total.

OLDEST MALE PARACHUTIST – TANDEM JUMP
Bjarne Mæland (Norway) (b 1899) made his first tandem parachute jump at the age of 100 years 21 days. He jumped from a height of 3,200 m (10,499 ft) above Stavanger Airport, Sola, Norway, on 8 Sept 1999.

FASTEST FURNITURE
Edd China and David Davenport's customized sofa car, *The Casual Lofa*, has a top speed of 140 km/h (87 mph).

MOST DIAMOND WEDDINGS IN ONE FAMILY
Thomas and Molly Frey (USA) had 17 children, three of whom celebrated diamond wedding anniversaries. Henry Sebade and Anna Sebade (Frey) were married for 69 years; Harvey Frey and Della Frey (Kai) were together for 64 years; and Erwin Gralheer and Mary Gralheer (Frey)'s marriage lasted for 70 years.

BIGGEST BOTTLE-TOP MURAL
As a joint venture between Interbrew, Total Sports, Internet Sports Network, Webpersonals.com and Core Audience Entertainment, beer.com was launched on 12 Oct 1999. A mural of the company's logo and website address was created using bottle tops in Toronto's Sky Dome, Canada. It was 73 m (240 ft) long and 9 m (30 ft) high, and the total area covered with bottle tops measured 2,473,569 cm² (383,404 in²).

MOST CHILLIES EATEN
Eriberto N Gonzales Jr consumed 350 chillies in three minutes at the annual Magayon Festival chilli-eating contest, held at Paranda Park, Legazpi, Albay, Philippines, on 27 May 1999.

MOST SKI FLIPS IN 10 MINUTES
Tommy Waltner (USA) completed 23 front inverted aerial jumps within 10 minutes on 25 April 2000. The event took place on Aspen Mountain, Colorado, USA, in order to raise money for Waltner's 'Loops for Lupus' campaign.

HEAVIEST WEIGHT LIFTED WITH A HUMAN BEARD
On 4 March 2000 Vaidanas Kontrimas (Lithuania) lifted a girl weighing 55.7 kg (122.8 lb) off the ground with his beard.

HIGHEST CANINE FREESTYLE JUMP
The highest freestyle jump by a dog is 160 cm (63 in) by Wolf, a Russian Wolfhound, during the Superdog Show at Klondike Days, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, on 28 July 1999. Wolf is owned and trained by Seanna O'Neill of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

TEENAGE FEMALE SOLO ARTISTS WITH MOST NO 1 HITS
The teenage female solo performers with the most No 1 hits are Britney Spears (USA), who was 18 years 5 months 3 days old when her single 'Oops! I Did It Again' became

her third release to reach the top spot in the UK charts on 7 May 2000; and Billie Piper (UK), who was 17 years 7 months 21 days old when her single 'Day and Night' became her third No. 1 hit, entering the UK charts on 21 May 2000.

LOUDEST FINGER SNAP
Bob Hatch of Pasadena, California, USA, snapped his fingers with a decibel meter reading of 8 on 17 May 2000.

LONGEST GRAPE SPIT
Robert Bowell of Aston Tirrold, Oxon, UK, spit a grape a record distance of 6.82 m (22.38 ft) at the Aston Tirrold Fête on 21 May 2000.

BIGGEST TIP
Gwen Butler, a 29-year-old US barmaid, was given a $2-million (£1.26-million) tip by Swiss banker Eric Sager after he ate at the Federalist restaurant and cocktail lounge in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, in Feb 2000.

FASTEST-SELLING POP ALBUM
The record for the greatest first week's sales of an album is held by pop group *NSYNC (USA). They sold 2.41 million copies of *No Strings Attached* after it was released on 21 March 2000.

MOST TEMPLES CONSECRATED BY ONE PERSON
His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the spiritual master of the Swaminarayan Hindu Mission (BAPS), consecrated 355 temples in 11 countries between 17 April 1971 and 6 May 2000. The highest rate of consecrations was 14 in a month, or one every 2.2 days, in India in Jan 2000.

SMALLEST AIRGUN
Derek Earp of Northampton, UK, built a miniature pre-charged pneumatic air pistol measuring 7.5 cm (3 in) in 1999.

BIGGEST MEXICAN WAVE
The largest ever Mexican wave was performed by 3,222 people standing in a single line on the South Downs, UK, on 24 June 2000. The wave began at Chantry Point and stretched for approximately 5 km (3 miles). The event was organized by some of the county's young people as a way of celebrating the millennium, and raised funds for the participants' chosen charities.

MOST BLANK PAGES IN A BOOK
University lecturer Anne Lydiat (UK) published a book with no words on 9 Sept 1999. The 52 pages of *lost for words...* are blank and represent 'a feminine place where there is silence', according to the author.

HIGHEST CLIFFS IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM
NASA's *Voyager 2* probe encountered the planet Uranus and its collection of moons in 1986. Its moon Miranda, which is 472 km (293 miles) in diameter, has a surface made up of a jumble of bizarre geological features. One of the most prominent is an enormous cliff with a vertical relief of about 20 km (12 miles). This cliff, named Verona Rupes, is 5 km (3 miles) higher than the walls of the Grand Canyon, USA, on Earth. Its height is even more remarkable in comparison with the size of Miranda itself.

BIGGEST MASS WEDDING CEREMONY IN A PRISON
A record 120 inmates of Carandiru Prison, São Paulo, Brazil, married their fiancées in a mass ceremony held on 14 June 2000.

MOST DANCERS
A total of 4,446 children danced 'The Time Warp', and 4,506 children disco danced, at an event organized by Mardi Gras Promotions Ltd at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, UK, on 18 June 2000.

FURTHEST RESTING-PLACE
On 31 July 1999 NASA's *Lunar Prospector* spacecraft crashed into the lunar surface after 18 months of successful mission operations. Incorporated into this orbiter was a 3.8-cm (1.5-in) polycarbonate container holding 28 g (1 oz) of the remains of Dr Eugene Shoemaker. Wrapped around this container was a piece of brass foil inscribed with some of the images of Shoemaker's pioneering work in planetary science.

BIGGEST WOK
The world's largest wok, made by Tony Hancock (UK), is 2.93 m (9 ft 7 in) in diameter and 0.60 m (2 ft) deep. Hancock used it to stir-fry 400 kg (882 lb) of vegetables at the Wing Yip Chinese restaurant and supermarket, Croydon, Surrey, UK, on 16 March 2000.

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To help you find the records that interest you the most, we've provided a set of communities of interest, tying together all the records that share certain characteristics.

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Guinness World Records – The Story

The roots of Guinness World Records go back to 1951, to a shooting party in County Wexford, Ireland. Sir Hugh Beaver, the managing director of the Guinness brewing company, was involved in a dispute as to whether the golden plover was Europe's fastest game bird. In 1954 another argument arose as to whether the grouse was faster than the golden plover. Sir Hugh realized that these sorts of questions probably arose among people in pubs all the time, and that a book which provided answers to them could be useful to licensees.

The twins Norris and Ross McWhirter, then running a fact-finding agency in London, were commissioned to compile what became *The Guinness Book Of Records* and, after a busy year of research, the first copy of the 198-page book was bound on 27 Aug 1955. It was an instant success and became the No 1 best-seller in Britain before Christmas. The first US edition was published the following year, closely followed by French, German and Japanese versions.

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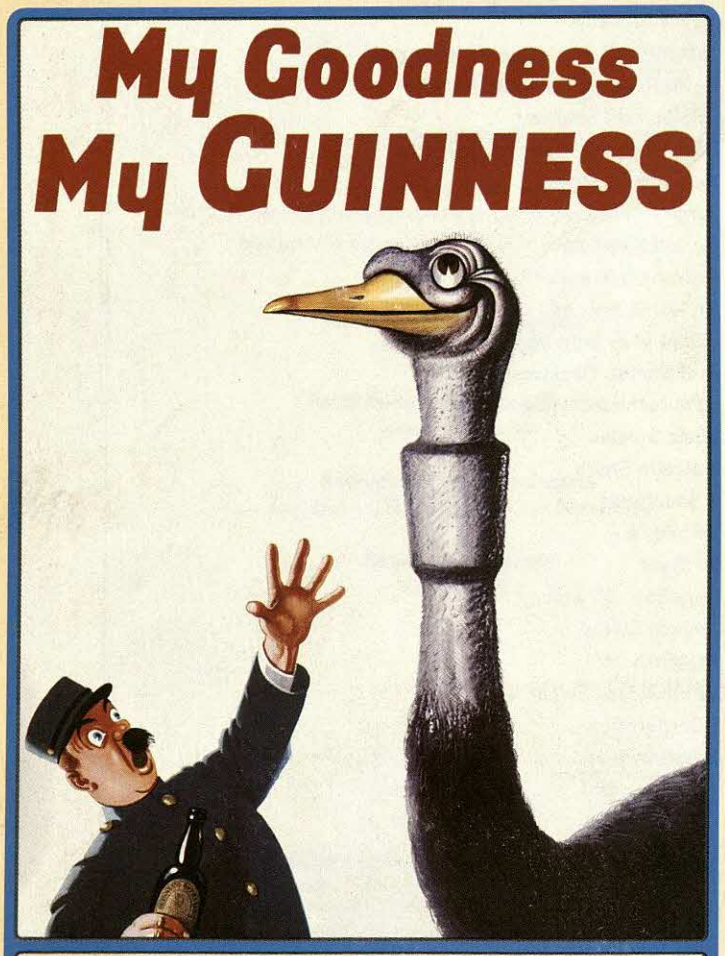

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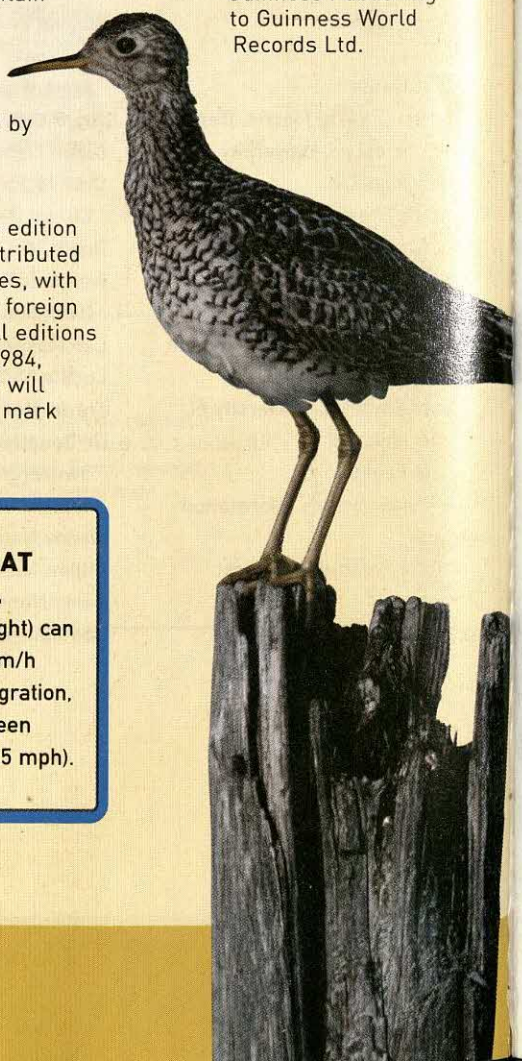

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